

Reading Family Church
 Sunday 22 October 2017

Title: Responsibility

Bible Verses: Mark 5:21 – 6:1

Question: Why should we take responsibility for mission to other nations, for the poor, for the downtrodden? Don't we have enough to worry about in our own families?

Jarius approaches Jesus. He is a powerful, important man, and we know his name. Then we meet our next character. She is a woman. We don't know her name. She has no-one to take responsibility for her, but Jesus calls her "daughter." Because of her illness, she is now ritually unclean, alone, poor, suffering, and has been for twelve years. She touches Jesus and is healed. Jesus honours her publicly.

Meanwhile, Jairus' daughter dies. Jesus goes to his house, and they laugh at him. They treat him shamefully, and he rebukes them, but still heals their little girl, raising her from the dead. The girl was twelve years old.

Compare the Two healings:

Jairus

Daughter 12 years old
 We know his name
 Comes on behalf of his daughter

 Proud – and Jesus humbles him
 Approaches Jesus in front of everyone
 (Healing is in secret) – no boasting
 Asks Jesus to come to his house
 Jesus makes him wait
 Household give up hope and are rebuked

The Woman

Been bleeding for 12 years
 Unnamed
 Has no-one to come on her behalf (Jesus calls her "daughter")
 Humble – and Jesus honours her
 Approaches Jesus secretly
 (Healing is public) – no more shame
 Goes to where Jesus is
 Jesus gives her priority
 Never gives up hope and is praised

What do we learn from this story?

1. If you are suffering, come and touch Jesus. It's never too late.
2. Take responsibility for "the other". This story is a rebuke to Jairus – he cares out his twelve-year old daughter, but who is caring for the twelve-year sick woman?
3. Beware the idol of power. Jesus is changing the world, but through the marginal not the powerful. He wasn't biased towards Jairus. If anything, he was biased towards the woman.
4. Pride and Humility. Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.
5. Jairus' household is just Adam's household, the household of humanity, our family! Jesus enters the house of death, and raises our dead, despite our opposition and unbelief and at the cost of his own life.

Questions

1. Which character do you identify with in the story, and why?
2. Do you have Jairus-like tendencies of self-importance and pride? What is the significance of Jesus healing Jairus daughter *in secret*? Would this have humbled Jairus, do you think?

3. Why does Jesus praise the woman in front of the crowd? How does the power of shame over people get broken? Can shame and marginalization be reversed?
4. How would you summarise the contrast portrayed here?
5. In light of this story, what choices do you need to make this week as a disciple of Jesus?