

SEARCHING FOR A MIRACLE

Mark 5:21-43

Introduction:

Everywhere you go, you find people who are searching for many different things. Some are looking for love ... for money ... for opportunity ... for answers ... for fulfillment. And there are some who are just looking for a miracle!!

Whatever the reason, they are facing certain situations and their only answer is a miracle. My dictionary defines a “miracle” as: an event that appears to be neither a part or result of any known natural law or agency and is therefore often attributed to a supernatural source.

You may find yourself at a place in life where you cannot solve your problem on your own, you have tried everything and looked everywhere with no success. And it may be that you have failed to look to the One who can do what no other can do. We serve a miracle working God and nothing is beyond His power. Just think for a moment about all the miracles that Jesus has performed in the Gospel of Mark up to the time of this miracle.

- Cast out an unclean spirit
- Healed Peter's mother-in-law
- Cleansed a leper
- Healed a paralytic
- Healed a man with a withered hand
- Calmed a storm
- Cast out a legion of demons
- Many other miracles not recorded by Mark

Now, in our text today we have two accounts—really a story within a story—of people who are desperate. They are searching for a miracle. There is nothing more they can do. Their situation is hopeless, and they seek out Jesus, the one who can do what they cannot. Isn't that a lesson for all of us. Let's look at the text and look at these two individuals as they come searching for a miracle.

A Desperate Father

Read vv. 21-24 – note the significant difference in detail from the account in Matthew.

Jesus has just landed after returning from the incident across the lake in the region of the Gerasenes. Again, he is surrounded immediately by great crowds.

Jairus – a ruler of the synagogue (explain) – may have been a Pharisee. The religious leaders did not like Jesus, but they could not have missed the accounts of miracles. Jairus was desperate – his daughter was dying – only 12 years old. He fell at Jesus feet ... implored him ... begged him to come to his house. He had heard the stories of what Jesus had done, and he was searching for a miracle for himself and his daughter.

“And he went with him.” – Jesus was not dissuaded by the dislike that the religious establishment had for him.

As usual, he was surrounded by throngs of people crowding, pushing, bumping one another as they moved through the narrow streets and passageways of Capernaum.

A Desperate Woman

Read vv. 25-28 – note the woman's condition:

- Issue of blood – some sort of hemorrhaging, or bleeding, from some part of the body. Would leave her weak, anemic, lacking energy ... could lead to discouragement & depression
- No relief – 12 years she had suffered. Imagine what life was like for her – not only physically sick for over a decade, but social isolation as well – she would be considered unclean according to the Law – see Lev. 15:25-27.
- She had suffered under the treatment of many physicians – no help, no cure, perhaps even harmed by the attempts of the doctors...
- Not only that, but she had exhausted her financial resources – spent all she had... Here she is, sick, separated and broke ... in a place of severe desperation! Oh, but it still gets worse! Notice...
- v26c “...and was no better, but rather grew worse.”

After 12 years and many doctors, after hoping and praying that the next remedy would be the one to heal her, things just get worse ... literally her life was draining out of her. She was desperate...

But then she heard about Jesus and determined to get to Him. Maybe he could help her. Imagine her trying to make her way through the crowd that day. Maybe it wasn't that hard. If they knew who she was the people would have avoided touching her by any means possible. After all she was an "unclean" woman...

This woman interrupted a miracle searching for a miracle of her own. She thought ... v. 28. She made her way through the crowd, creeping up behind him and reached out and touched the fringe, the border of his robe – Luke 8:44.

(Application - Perhaps you are in that sort of place, or you have been there ... you are looking for help, hope & happiness ... you have searched everywhere with no success ... you have looked to other people and they couldn't help you ... you have spent much money trying to buy things that will provide you with happiness ...it didn't work. You have tried it all AND NOTHING IS WORKING!! YOU ARE MISERABLE AND YOU NEED HELP NOW! You are at a place of "Severe Desperation" and that may be the best place for you to find the answer that you need! This woman was at that point in her life and she found the answer... but how? Let's look at what happened...)

A Miraculous Healing

Read vv. 29-34 – immediately, she was healed – the flow of blood stopped and she could feel the healing power flow through her body. The miracle that she had been looking for and longing for had happened. The thing that she had spent so much time, money & effort on was wiped away in an instant. This woman who was deemed unclean by the law is now clean because of Jesus!

- vv. 30-32 – Jesus' question ... the disciples' amazement ...
- v. 33 – the woman's confession – a public admission of her need

In verse 34, we have Jesus amazing response to this woman – "Daughter..." this is the only person that Jesus ever called daughter...

"...your faith has made you well." The word literally means "to save, to make whole, to be whole." I think it is clear that this was more than just a physical healing. It was a spiritual healing as well. This woman received the miracle she was searching for, but she received much more than that. Her life was made whole, complete. She was not only cleansed physically and ceremonially, but she was cleansed spiritually.

"...go in peace, and be healed of your disease." (NIV – be freed from your suffering.) Why would Jesus say that? Hadn't she already been healed? Yes, but this word from Jesus was confirmation that her healing was permanent. She could go on her way assured that she had met the master and her life was forever different. Different in two ways: first, her disease and ceremonial uncleanness was gone, and second, her life was made whole spiritually.

Another Miraculous Healing

Well, in the meantime, what about Jairus? Imagine – impatiently shifting, restless, waiting for Jesus to finish with this interruption. His daughter is dying, and Jesus is stopped to deal with someone else...

Then the word comes – *read v. 35*. A servant arrives with the news that it's too late. His daughter has died. Don't bother the miracle healer any more.

Read vv. 36-43 – discuss

- only believe – faith
- people weeping and wailing – mourning
- only the parents and his close disciples allowed in
- Talitha cumi – little girl, arise, get up
- She came back to life – amazement
- Give her something to eat

Verse 43 – don't tell anyone. It seems to me that it would be pretty hard to hide what had just happened.

Why did Jesus so often tell people not to spread the word about what had happened? Not sure, but perhaps it is because the more the word spread, the more people would be coming to him for the wrong reasons.

Conclusion

Two people in a desperate situation, reaching out to Jesus, searching for a miracle in their lives.

There were crowds of people around Jesus that day, jostling, bumping into him. But these two came with a purpose, reaching out to him, searching, pleading for a special touch from him.

Do you need a special touch from the Lord today? Are you "searching for a miracle?"

- Physical healing
- Healing for a broken heart
- Healing and restoration for a fractured relationship
- Answers in the midst of a trying situation

Whatever your need, you have a choice. You can bump into Jesus like so many in the crowd that day or you can reach out and touch Him with purpose and look to him for a miracle.