

Intro

Thank you First Presbyterian Regina for having me and my friend, Samuel, to be with you during this summer as we minister to you and your kids as summer ministry students.

We are so thrilled and honored to have this opportunity to share life with you. Though we cannot be there physically, yet we are grateful that technology enables us to connect today.

And even more than technology, we are grateful because we know it is the Lord who unites and connects us today!

Conflict

First Presbyterian, today’s theme is taken from The Revised

Common Lectionary book: **“Jesus Christ, Lord over Sickness and Death.”** Based on the narrative story recorded in [Mark 5:21-43](#).

The Gospel of Mark offers clear demonstrations of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all its writings. Today’s lesson combines two stories (Jairus’ story and the woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for 12 years). Together, these two stories unfold the third unit in the beginning of Jesus’ miracles.

The 1st miracle of Jesus can be seen in chapter 4:35-41 where Jesus is displayed as the Lord of Nature as he calmed the storm. The 2nd miracle demonstrates Jesus as the Lord over demonic forces as he restored a demon-possessed man in the region of the Gerasenes.

In today’s lesson, we see the 3rd miracle of Jesus that shows us that Jesus is the Lord over sickness and death.

However, the reality is that people do not always get healed. And healing is not based on how much faith we have, how many people pray for us, or whether or not we trust God. And when someone is not healed it is NOT because Jesus doesn't want to heal them.

In other words, when we talk about healing it is one of the mysteries of life. It is one of the things where, as a pastor and as a fellow brother and sister in Christ, we will sit and pray with, and cry with, and comfort someone who has experienced a terrible loss... and we could say to them: *“I don't know why this happened. I don't know why your loved one died. I only know that God loves you, and God is with us now, and God is sharing your pain. And I believe that God is taking care of your loved one and welcoming them into a new life where there is no more pain, or sorrow, or crying.”*

Diagnose

First Presbyterian, I don't know what are the struggles of sickness or of deaths that you have been through, but I think I can assume that some of you also find it hard to see Jesus as the Lord over sickness and death because that idea of his lordship over sickness and death is nothing but theory for you in the reality of your life — and perhaps you have started to think of yourself as a doubter, as someone who lacks of faith.

Well, please don't be too harsh on yourself. Today we are going to unfold what it means to trust in Jesus as the Lord over sickness and death from the light of Jairus' story and the story of a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years.

Surprising Truth

Word was spreading about Jesus. This was long before the days of

television and movies. It was even before common people had books. People spread news by talking to other people. Those who had seen the miracles of Jesus told others. Then those people told others, and so on. At this time, God had not sent a prophet for 400 years, so these people were not used to seeing miracles. When Jesus arrived, teaching a new message about God’s kingdom, and performing miracles, it was the talk of the town—and the countryside!

So, based on this story I want to divide my sermon in three parts: 1st part is Jairus’ story (as recorded in verses 21-24), 2nd part is the woman who had been suffering from bleeding (as recorded in verses 24-29), and the 3rd part is the story where Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter up from the dead (as recorded in verses 35-43).

1st part (Jairus’ story) — Now, let us see Jairus’ story that is recorded in verses 21-24 (read it). We know that many of the Jewish leaders did not follow Jesus. I cannot be so sure why they didn’t follow or appreciate Jesus. Because his teaching was very consistent with Jewish teaching. After all, he was a faithful Jewish person. Remember that he agreed with Jewish leaders about the greatest commandments (loving God and loving neighbors). What some of the leaders objected to with Jesus was his claims of authority to teach, claims of a special relationship with God, and sometimes the way he was willing to break some of the rules in order to do what was most important (like healing or helping someone who needed it).

However, in today’s story, we’ll learn about one Jewish leader, named Jairus, who *did* put his trust in Jesus and his authority. Jairus went to find Jesus when he had a big, big problem. He needed help

fast, but Jesus wasn't nearby. Jesus had been teaching on the other side of the Sea of Galilee, and now He was on His way back. When people heard that Jesus was returning, they crowded at the shoreline. Jairus was one of these people. His problem was so urgent, he probably paced back and forth waiting to catch a glimpse of Jesus' boat heading to shore. Have you ever had a big, big problem? Have you ever needed Jesus this much?

When my son, Ben, was only 42 days old. He was severely sick because of his lactose intolerance and acute allergy. He was admitted to the hospital and something that I formerly thought only a simple sickness turned out to be 18 consecutive days in 3 different hospitals. When he was transferred to the third hospital and they put him in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit — ICU for babies), there I remember that I let go of my ownership over him. I was made aware that Ben is not mine, Ben belongs to God. So, do unto

him as you see fit, Lord — I prayed. For my wife and I have tried our best for our first-born son to be healed and recovered, but if the Lord said otherwise, then so be it.

What worsened my situation at that time was the comments made by religious folks who came and visited us and said something like: *“Daniel, do not hide anything from God. If you have anything that you haven't confessed to God, do it now.”* What miserable comforters were these groups of people! They were like Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar to Job's misery. They were suggesting that maybe my son was sick because of my sins or errors!

At that time, we only asked God to give us reasons if somehow Ben could not make it: Why did you only give Ben to us for such a short period of time?

But when we least expected Ben to recover, we somehow heard the Lord whisper similarly to what he said to Jairus: *“Do not fear, only believe.”* I whispered back to God as I consoled my wife, *“I have never thought that believing in you could be this frightening.”*

Then suddenly after 4 days and 3 nights in NICU, one doctor came to us and said, *“Ben is showing signs of recovery. He will be moved to the recovery room today.”* I won’t forget the indescribable joy and brightness that I saw in my wife’s eyes (and I trust she also saw it in mine). Long story short, Ben completely recovered after 18 long days in three different hospitals. Soon, July the 5th he will turn 8 years old. Praise the Lord!

However, God doesn’t always heal and show miracles to me. In May 2015 we lost our second child when he was only 4 months old in the womb of my wife. The doctor had to take him out because of

continuous bleeding in my wife, so he died before he was “complete” physically. We named him Taken. And we believe that we will be seeing him again in heaven one day.

So, you see the Lord doesn’t always heal or even resurrect those who die. And yet, whether we experience physical healing or not, when we place our trust in God, God is with us through the most difficult experiences of our lives. We still can trust him in the storm for he is the Lord over (above and beyond) sickness and death.

Now, let’s see the 2nd part.

2nd part (the woman’s story) — Note: read verses 24-29. This poor woman had suffered for many years. The type of bleeding she had can cause problems such as: a really fast heartbeat, low blood pressure, and a low body temperature. All of these things make a

person feel terrible. She tried to get help from doctors. The doctors had taken all of her money, but had not healed her. Back then, doctors didn't know nearly as much as they know now. Their idea of treatment might have been worse than the disease itself. One thing is certain: she was only getting worse. This woman was helpless and hopeless until she heard about Jesus.

Like Jairus, this woman had faith in Jesus. She was certain that Jesus could heal her. She knew that Jesus was so powerful that if she could just touch the hem of his clothes, she would be healed! Now that's faith!

Many people were crowded around Jesus. Indeed, many people touched him. But there was something very different about this woman. She knew that she was helpless. She was truly poor in

spirit, and she put all her hope in Jesus. So, Jesus asked who had touched him.

However, Jesus did not ask questions to gain information. He asked this question for the sake of the woman and those around him. When he asked who touched him, the woman became so afraid! The joy she felt over being healed suddenly turned to fear. She must have felt like a child who had been called into the principal's office! But Jesus didn't call her forward because she was in trouble. It was just the opposite! He wanted her to know that she had done very well to put her trust in him.

The woman was healed. Jesus could have left it at that. But Jesus wanted to give her more! He wanted to give her the peace of knowing that Jesus was happy to heal her. She didn't have to live her life thinking she had “stolen” this blessing. Jesus poured out his

grace on her like a big hug! Not only did Jesus heal her, but he also gave her peace. And one more reason Jesus made her known was probably to make her an example to others. Her faith was an example to those around her that day, even to us today!

Let us not forget that Jesus was on his way to Jairus’ house to heal Jairus’ daughter when the woman touched Jesus’ robe. I can imagine that Jairus, who was worried about his dying daughter, may have thought that this woman’s interruption was a bad thing. After all, this woman caused Jesus to stop when he should be running to the little girl! But Jesus did not see it that way at all! The sick woman did not catch Jesus by surprise! So, the question is: why did Jesus let this interruption happen? I am not sure why, but perhaps Jesus allowed this interruption to deepen Jairus’ trust in him? I don’t know.

However, this is what I believe: Jesus will never think of your need as an interruption in his day! And he will never scold you for coming to him. No! Quite the opposite, he will be so pleased that you had the faith to trust him and bring your need to him. Every time you bring your needs to Jesus, you are showing that you have faith in him, you trust that he has the power and compassion to help you. We all need to know that Jesus will not see our needs and struggles as an interruption, as if others are more important than us. Indeed, Jesus makes time for all of us.

The 3rd part (Jairus’ daughter was raised up from the dead) —

Note: read verses 35-43. Jesus had been delayed on the way to Jairus’ home. I can’t imagine the pain that gripped Jairus’ heart when he heard the news that it was too late. But Jesus, the author of peace, was quick to say to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just believe.” It was at this moment that Jairus had to make a decision. Would he

believe the terrible news, or believe in Jesus? Would he stop in his tracks, or continue walking alongside the Healer? He had seen that Jesus had power over sickness. Would he believe that Jesus had power over death?

Perhaps the bleeding woman had crossed their path at just the right moment to strengthen Jairus' faith. Jairus was about to face a crisis of faith. This may be one more reason that Jesus made the woman's healing public. Jairus trusted Jesus and continued walking with him towards his home. Jairus had seen Jesus heal; now he would see greater things.

Jesus told all the people who were crying about the girl's death that they did not need to cry. But they laughed at him. God's way is so much higher than the ways of people that they simply did not understand what Jesus was saying (Isaiah 55:9). These people did

not have faith in Jesus. They were not invited to enter the home and witness the miracle.

It only took a few words for Jesus to raise the girl. This shouldn't surprise us too much, because it was God's spoken word that created the world and all the life that is in it. Of course, the girl's mother and father, and Peter, James, and John were completely amazed. They each knew that Jesus had power over sickness. And the disciples knew that Jesus had power over nature and evil spirits. But now, this handful of people knew that Jesus had power over death. Do you think that Jairus and his wife realized at that moment that God's own Son was sitting in their daughter's bedroom? How blessed they were! Not only was their daughter fine, but they had also come face to face with the long-awaited Messiah!

Today, we have seen two beautiful examples of faith. When the sick woman and Jairus were helpless and hopeless, Jesus was the answer. The woman came to Jesus and Jesus brought healing and peace. Jairus put his trust in Jesus, and Jesus brought life where there once was death. In the Kingdom of God, suffering ends, hearts are mended, and new life takes the place of death.

Good News

First church, in the end we need to learn how to live with the mystery of why physical healing sometimes happens and sometimes doesn't, and hold on to the fact that God loves us and goes with us through the most difficult experiences of our lives.

He still loves you and me. He still has a plan for you and me. And I trust he also still has a profound purpose for that pain that can end up blessing us beyond anything we could ever imagine.

Often God chooses to heal! But sometimes he teaches us more and draws us closer when we walk the dark mile of suffering. But to experience such blessing, it is important that we run to God and not away from him in the midst of the storm.

The psalmist says, *“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”* (Psalm 73:25-26)

Jesus is the Lord over sickness and death. **Closing prayer:** Rev. Amanda Currie.