

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Quincy, IL
Rev. Martin Eden

Pentecost 6
Saturday, June 29, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

“Fight Through the Crowd”

Mark 5:21-43

During this Pentecost Season, through the Gospel readings, we are going to follow the disciples along their journey with Christ. Again, like last week, when the disciples were panicking when faced with the storm causing waves to crash over the side of the boat and not understanding that Jesus did not come into the world to drown in a random boating accident – He came for one purpose: to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and die upon the altar of the cross.

Throughout the Gospels, we witness people’s lack of faith in Christ and lack of faith in the power and authority of the Lord’s Word. We see that among those mourning the death of Jairus’ daughter – they laugh at Jesus as He says she is only sleeping. But today, we also see some who exhibited great faith.

As we saw last week, the disciples panicked as they faced a storm out on the Sea of Galilee. Today, Mark tells us of some other people who faced different kinds of “storms” in their life. A man named Jairus falls at Jesus’ feet and begs and pleads for Him to come and heal his daughter who is dying.

An important man, a ruler of the synagogue fought through the crowd that had gathered, drops to the ground, and makes a statement of great faith, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” There is no doubt in his words.

Then there is a woman who had been ill for 12 years. She fought through the crowd, came up behind Jesus, and says, to herself, a statement of great faith, “If I touch even His garments, I will be made well.”

These people were in the midst of terrible storms. A young girl, 12 years old is about to die. Last week, we heard of the disciples being caught in the storm, in the dark, on a boat. You can’t see where you are going; everything seems out of your control; you look for any glimmer of light or hope. For Jairus, the Light and Hope of the world stepped off of a boat and came to the place where he lives.

The woman who had the discharge of blood was in a storm of her own. For 12 years, ironically, for as long as Jairus’ daughter had been alive, this woman was as good as dead to everyone around her. She had a flow of blood. This meant that she is ceremonially unclean. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, would probably not know this woman, because, for 12 years, she was forbidden from coming into the synagogue.

In fact, if she entered your home, anything she sat upon was deemed unclean. Any cup or dish she touched would have to go through ceremonial

washing. If you went to her home, you would be unclean for a certain period of time. Mark tells us that she suffered much at the hands of the doctors who relieved her of her money but not her illness. But, most likely, the worst part of the “storm” for her was being alone. No friends would come visit. No friends would invite her over. She was in the midst of a dark storm that had lasted for 12 years. The Light and Hope of the world had come to the place where she lived.

Christ heals her miraculously – with the touch of His garment. The crowd has no idea what is going on – which is typical of crowds in general. They know nothing, and they cannot perceive or understand the power of God. And He says to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.” God’s daughter is healed. Now it is time for Jairus’ daughter.

On their way, bad news comes. They say to Jairus, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?” But she is not just Jairus’ daughter, God has a plan for her also. He tells Jairus, do not let their fear and unbelief cause your faith to waver. Jairus’ statement, said in faith, is not changed by the news spreading through the crowd. He said, “Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” The news of her death has not changed the truth of that word. Jairus must fight through the crowd. They know nothing, and they cannot perceive or understand the power of God.

And there is a great commotion at Jairus’ house. The family is crying. The professional wailers are already there. Oh, they would make quite a commotion.

Jesus says, “The child is not dead.” Life and death only occur when God decides life and death occur. Your entrance into this world is a gift from God. You will depart this “valley of sorrows” according to His time and according to His will.

And the crowd laughed at Him, because they know nothing, and they cannot perceive or understand the power of God. With Jesus, Jairus and the disciples fight through the crowd, put the crowd outside, and Jesus displays the power of His Word. He says, “Talitha cumi” – “Little girl, I say to you arise.”

Just like last week, Jesus calms the “storm”. Sometimes Jesus calms the storm of your life by bringing healing and wholeness, like He did for the women who had bled for 12 years.

Sometimes Jesus calms the storm of your life in the raising of the dead. Paul tells us that those who are without Christ are dead in their trespasses and sins. One way or another the Word of God, the presence of God will bring life and peace and calm that we will never find in the chaos of the crowd. Fight through the crowd. The crowd has no idea what is going on. They know nothing, and they cannot perceive or understand the power of God.

Fight through the crowd and give thanks to God that the Light and Hope of the world has come to the place where you live. Amen.