

Summary

In Mark 5:21-43, Jesus encounters two suffering people: Jairus, a synagogue leader whose daughter is dying, and a woman who has suffered from a bleeding condition for twelve years. Both are desperate, yet both find hope in Jesus. The sermon explores how suffering either draws us closer to God or pushes us away, and challenges us to keep trusting Jesus even when circumstances seem hopeless and others tell us to stop believing. Through this passage, we see three key truths about Jesus: He is a God who suffers alongside us, a God who is sovereign over every situation, and a God who understands our pain. We also learn that we need faith in the midst of suffering, and that Jesus speaks to our identity rather than our condition. Whether He calls a woman "daughter" or tenderly wakes a little girl, Jesus reminds us who we are and whose we are, even when death seems to have the final word.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and honest souls. We acknowledge that suffering is real, and that sometimes it shakes our faith and tempts us to pull away from You. As we gather together, we ask that You would soften our hearts and open our minds to what You want to speak to each of us today. Help us not to run from the hard questions, but to lean into Your presence and Your truth. May this time together draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one small thing that always brings you comfort when you are having a rough day?

Key Verses

- Mark 5:21-24
- Mark 5:25-30
- Mark 5:34
- Mark 5:36
- Mark 5:41-42
- Job 19:25-26

Questions

- Both Jairus and the woman with the bleeding condition were desperate, yet both pressed toward Jesus. When you are going through a hard season, is your first instinct to move toward Jesus or to pull away from Him? Why do you think that is?
- The sermon pointed out that Jesus stopped on His way to a dying girl to address a woman with a chronic condition. Have you ever felt like God was moving too slowly in your situation? How did that affect your faith?
- Jesus told Jairus, 'Don't be afraid, just believe' (Mark 5:36, NIV) even after His daughter had already died. What does it look like practically to keep believing when the worst has already happened?
- The pastor mentioned that friends of Jairus told him to stop bothering Jesus. Have you ever had someone discourage you from trusting God during a painful time? How did you respond?
- The sermon described the woman's healing not just as a cure but as being 'freed from her suffering' (Mark 5:34, NIV). What is the difference between being healed of a condition and being freed from bondage? Have you experienced that kind of freedom?
- Jesus called the woman 'daughter' and tenderly addressed the little girl with a pet name. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus speaks to your identity rather than your condition or your circumstances?
- The sermon presented three truths: Jesus suffers with us, Jesus is sovereign over all things, and Jesus understands our pain. Which of these three truths is most meaningful to you right now, and why?
- Job declared in the middle of his suffering, 'I know that my Redeemer lives' (Job 19:25, NIV). How do you hold onto hope in the resurrection when you are in the middle of a situation that feels like death?

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where suffering or fear has caused you to pull back from trusting Jesus. Each day, take a deliberate step toward Him in that area. This could be through prayer, reading a psalm, sharing your struggle with a trusted friend, or simply saying out loud, 'I will keep believing.' Let the words of Jesus to Jairus be your anchor: 'Don't be afraid, just believe' (Mark 5:36, NIV).

Key Takeaways

- We have a God who suffers. Jesus gave up power so the woman could be healed, and ultimately gave His life on the cross so that we could gain life. He is not distant from our pain.
- We have a God who is sovereign. No one hurried Jesus, and no one could hide from Him. He is in complete control even when our circumstances feel out of control.
- Suffering is the great exposure of who we truly trust. It tempts us to pull away from God, but it is precisely in those moments that we are called to press closer to Him.
- Jesus speaks to our identity, not our condition. He called the woman 'daughter' and tenderly addressed the little girl, reminding us that we are known and loved by God regardless of what we are going through.
- Faith is not the absence of fear or doubt. It is the choice to keep believing, keep trusting, and keep clinging to Jesus even when death seems to have the final word.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for meeting us in this passage and in this discussion. Thank You that You are not a distant God who is unaware of our pain, but a Savior who suffers with us, who is sovereign over every detail of our lives, and who speaks tenderly to us in our darkest moments. We confess that suffering sometimes makes us want to walk away, and we ask for the courage to stay close to You instead. Remind each person in this group of their identity as Your child. Speak through the noise of fear and grief and say, 'Don't be afraid, just believe.' We trust You with the things in our lives that feel like death, believing that You are the God who raises the dead to life. In Your powerful and loving name, Amen.