

Date: June 14, 2026
Series: Mark: The Sovereign, Suffering Servant
Title: Desperate People, Merciful Savior
Text: Mark 5:21-43



INTRODUCTION

- Jesus is sovereign over creation (Mark 4:35-41).
- Jesus is sovereign over the demonic forces of hell (Mark 5:1-20).
- Jesus is sovereign over disease, illness, and death itself (Mark 5:21-43).

Big Picture Truth #1 - This passage is meant to provoke us to radical faith! (Mark 5:34, 36)

Big Picture Truth #2 - God often uses despair and desperation to prepare His people to receive His compassion and grace! (Psalm 33:18-22)

I. DESPERATE PEOPLE, MERCIFUL SAVIOR

A. A Desperate Father Seeks Jesus (Mark 5:21-24)

1) Jesus sure seems to be “wasting” a lot of time crisscrossing the Sea of Galilee!

(John 4:34)

Note: Loving and serving others for the glory of God is NEVER a “waste” of our time!

2) This desperate father was a prominent and respected member of the community. As a ruler of the local synagogue, Jairus helped lead, organize, and oversee its worship and activities.

Note: Jesus does not go with Jairus because of who Jairus is. No! Jesus goes with him because of who Jesus is—full of truth, mercy, compassion, and grace!

(Lamentations 3:22-23)

3) This young girl is experiencing firsthand the very real effects and consequences of living in a sin-cursed, sin-infected world.

(Romans 5:12)

Note: Jesus came to conquer sin and death! Through Him we receive the gift of eternal life and the glorious promise of a future, bodily resurrection!

B. A Desperate Woman Seeks to Touch Jesus (Mark 5:25-34)

1) This woman had only a very limited knowledge of Jesus, but she knew enough to know that Jesus was her only hope!

Note: This poor woman had spent the past twelve years basically living as an outcast.

(Psalm 50:15)

2) Jesus did not want this woman to slip away unnoticed. He wanted to speak with her, and He wanted her to know Him.

Note: Jairus' daughter is not the only daughter in this story! Jesus wants His daughter to know and experience His love, healing, and peace.

(John 1:12-13)

C. The Calm, Confident Savior Presses On (Mark 5:35-43)

1) Jesus is asking Jairus to look beyond the hopelessness he is feeling and to fix his eyes on Him. Jesus is asking Jairus to believe that, no matter what has happened or will happen, Jesus will do what is right and what is best.

(Psalm 42:5-6a)

2) Defined biblically, true death is separation from God. Jesus knows that He has come to “awaken” this little girl and restore her to physical life. In that sense, her condition is more like sleep than death.

(John 11:11)

3) Jesus is so good! He could have healed this girl from afar, but He chose to come so that when she awoke, Jesus Himself would be there to greet her. This miracle is a foretaste—a preview—of Jesus' resurrection power and the hope that belongs to all who trust in Him!

(John 6:40)

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. What is faith? Why is it so important? How is it depicted in this passage?
2. Who was Jairus? Why was he seeking Jesus? What was motivating him?
3. Why did Jesus want to talk with the woman who snuck up to touch his clothes?
4. What is Jesus asking Jairus to do when He tells him to not fear but to believe? Believe what?
5. How does the Bible define death? Why did Jesus say that the young girl was only sleeping?