

Set Free by Faith

Mark 5:21-43

"Of all the Christian graces, none is so frequently mentioned in the New Testament as faith, and none is so highly commended. No grace brings such glory to Christ. Hope brings an eager expectation of good things to come. Love brings a warm and willing heart. Faith brings an empty hand, receives everything, and gives nothing in return. No grace is so important to the Christian soul. By faith we begin. By faith we live. By faith we stand. We walk by faith and not by sight. By faith we overcome. By faith we have peace. By faith we enter into rest. No grace should be the subject of so much self-inquiry. We should often ask ourselves, Do I really believe? Is my faith true, genuine, and the gift of God?"

May we never rest until we can give a satisfactory answer to these questions? Christ has not changed since the day when this woman was healed. He is still gracious and still mighty to save. There is but one thing needful if we want salvation. That one thing is the hand of faith. Let a man only 'touch' Jesus, and he shall be made whole."
Ryken

- I. The book of Mark was written to emphasize the servanthood of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. His heart to serve left such a strong impression on Peter that he had his disciple Mark write a gospel centered on its importance in the life of every believer. Jesus is our example. We are to follow him with the same attitude he had when he did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant... Like with Mark and Peter, he looks for humble servants to serve him well in the time we have left as we await his appearing.

Mark 10:45

Luke 10:2

diakoneōto = minister, to attend to anything, that may serve another's interests, to minister a thing to one, to serve one or by supplying any thing. Strong's G1247 - diakoneō

doulos = to be a slave, serve, do service. Strong's G1401 - doulos

Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, **serve** one another humbly in love.

Phil. 2:5-8 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a **servant**, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross.

- II. Jesus honors faith be it bold, timid or desperate. Anyone who is willing to hand over everything to his care honors and glorifies the author and perfecter of their faith. The woman's faith in Jesus' ability to heal her was timid and desperate, yet he honored her faith because of her willingness to reach out to him to set her free from the bondage of her illness. He helped her timid faith become bold by challenging her to openly proclaim what he had done for her. He also wanted to publicly bless her to show the freedom, peace and blessings that come to those who are willing to put their full trust in him.

Mark 5:24-34

Lev. 15:25-30

Hebrews 12:1-3 *1Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of **faith**. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

- III. The synagogue ruler's faith in Jesus' ability to heal his daughter was bold, yet anxious. He was being challenged to trust Jesus from the emotions of total loss, despair, grief and hurt over Jesus' delay in saving his daughter. He was being challenged to choose belief over fear. He chose belief, because his trust in Jesus to bring his daughter back to life far exceeded the doubt his emotions were causing. The blessing of having his daughter given back to him speaks powerfully of how Jesus loves to bless faith.

Mark 5:35-43

James 1:2-4

Heb. 10:25-11:1

Hebrews 10:38-39 *"... But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased, with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.*