

Teaching Plan EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Date: March 24, 2019

Lesson Title: "Restores"

Lesson Passage: Mark 5:21-24,35-43

ABOUT THIS LESSON

This lesson focuses on two unusual healing miracles. Actually, the Bible passage presents a story within a story. The lesson begins with a plea by Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, in behalf of his little daughter, who lies dying. Then, superimposed on that story is a narrative about the healing of a woman with a chronic hemorrhage. The narrative then goes back to the climax of the story involving the daughter of Jairus.

TEACHING/LEARNING GOALS

(1) Summarize the circumstances that brought Jairus and the woman with a hemorrhage to Jesus. (2) Tell what the outcome was in each instance.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Start with this question: "Are you ever bothered by people who interrupt what you are trying to do, at work or at home?" (EXAMPLES: Phone calls from telemarketers. Sales calls at your door. "Wrong number" calls. People who like to "pass the time of day" at your desk.) Let class members talk briefly about such experiences. Then note that Jesus, too, was subject to interruptions. EXAMPLES: The disciples broke into his prayer time (Mk. 1:35-37). The crowds interfered with his meals (Mk. 3:20). On one occasion, some men interrupted his teaching by lowering a sick friend through the roof of the house (Mt. 5:18-19.) *Observe that Jesus often turned interruptions into opportunities for meeting the needs of people; then point out that the Bible passage for this lesson is based on two such incidents.*

TEACHING PROCEDURES

1. Call attention to the fact that Jesus was very busy when he was approached by Jairus, then by the woman with a hemorrhage, in our lesson passage: In both instances, he was surrounded by people, a wonderful teaching opportunity (Mk. 5:21 and 5:24). But, in both instances, a single individual drew his attention away from his larger audience.

ILLUSTRATION: Imagine someone walking in and demanding the preacher's attention in the middle of a Sunday sermon.

2. Ask the class to consider the barriers that could have kept Jairus from coming to Jesus: (1) His position as "ruler" (chief administrator) of a synagogue. (Remind the class that scribes and Pharisees, recognized religious leaders, had already expressed their opposition to Jesus-- Mk. 3:6, 22. Jairus must have known that coming to Jesus for help would incur the displeasure of these associates.) (2) His pride. He was a respected leader among the Jews, but here he was throwing himself at the feet of a young itinerant teacher who had no official credentials at all. (3) Despair. The futility of his daughter's situation could have made him give up. (In Mk. 5:23, he admits that his daughter is at the point of death; and, in v. 35, people from his house say that she is already dead.

3. *Pose this question:* "What made Jairus come to Jesus despite these obstacles?"
SUGGESTION: The daughter was a 12-year-old (Mark 5:42), the age at which a girl became a woman, according to Jewish custom. At this crucial age, when a father can be bound to his little girl with strong cords of love, it would have been doubly tragic for her to die. Perhaps, under such circumstances, Jairus was ready to grasp at any chance he might have to save the life of his daughter.

4. *With reference to the woman whose story is told in Mk. 5:25-34, note that she, too, had to overcome barriers that stood in the way of her coming to Jesus:* (1) The crowd around Jesus. She had to push her way through. (2) Fear of rejection. A woman in her condition would have been regarded as unclean (a "Typhoid Mary"), a source of contamination. She had every reason to expect that Jesus would shun her.

5. *QUESTION:* "What made the woman approach Jesus in spite of these barriers?"
POSSIBLE REASONS: (1) Desperation. She had suffered from her condition for twelve long years. She had spent all her money on many doctors, but none of them had helped her.
NOTE: Even today in the Middle East, many people seem to feel that the more doctors you go to, the better your chances to be cured. Jesus was now her last resort. DISCUSSION: Jesus often is a "last resort." Some people come to him only after they have tried everything else. (2) She had heard reports about Jesus (Mk. 5:27), and this encouraged her to come to him.
DISCUSSION: This is what happens when Christians bear witness to him today; our "reports" encourage people to come to Jesus.

6. *Emphasize the role of faith in both of these episodes:* (1) The woman was healed not because the garment of Jesus had some magical power, but because of her faith (see Mk. 5:34). (2) *Emphasize Jesus' instruction to Jairus in Mk. 5:36, "Do not fear, only believe."* FOR DISCUSSION: Contrast the cynical attitude of those who laughed (v. 40) with the believing response of Jairus. APPLICATION: Present-day believers, also, are surrounded by those who laugh at Jesus.)

CLOSING THE LESSON

Refer to Mk. 5:30 and make this point: "We can't be certain about the meaning of 'power went forth from him.' But don't we experience a drain on personal resources when we try to minister to terminally ill patients, bereaved persons, or troubled families? It can "take a lot out of you." *But, as followers of Christ this is our calling.*

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