

Today's Message: "How Faith Grows"

We are all inclined to become spiritually **comfortable**. Though we may have seasons or moments of growth we tend to slip back into the place that feels safe.

We're going to look at two people that had their world shaken so they would take the risk of becoming **uncomfortable** in faith. There are two needs in this passage.

I. Those with a **critical need**

²¹ "Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³ He pleaded earnestly with him, 'My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.' ²⁴ So Jesus went with him." (Mark 5:21-24a, NIV)

A. Jairus breaks out of a **religious** comfort zone and falls at the feet of Jesus.

³⁵ "While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher anymore?' ³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.' ³⁷ He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹ He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.' ⁴⁰ But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha koum!' (which means 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). ⁴² Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³ He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat." (Mark 5:35-43, NIV)

B. Hear these words of Jesus as if He's speaking directly to you.

"Don't be **afraid**. Just believe."

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II. Those with a **chronic** need

"A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶ She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' ²⁹ Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. ³⁰ At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ 'You see the people crowding against you,' his disciples answered, 'and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' ³² But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. ³³ Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'" (Mark 5:24b-34, NIV)

There is a **depressing** component of chronic need that may **paralyze** you from taking action

- A. Jesus is searching for **living** faith. (vs. 28)
- B. "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." (vs. 34)

Conclusion: It's our place of need that holds the key to **enlarging** our hearts to break out of spiritual comfort zones when we step out in faith.

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Small Group or Personal Reflection Questions:

1. If you were to do an honest assessment, are you spiritually comfortable, growing, uncertain? Circle one. Describe why you choose that option.
2. When is the last time you faced a "critical need" in your life? What did you do to bring resolution to it? How did faith play a role, if at all?
3. Who do you know that has a chronic need? Have you seen the common symptoms of depression or hopelessness? If you are facing a chronic need, what is one small step that you can take toward resolution or healing?
4. For faith to grow, it must be exercised, just like our physical bodies. Share one place where you might see your faith grow in the coming weeks.

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