

# Talitha Cumi

In the previous text, we saw how passionately Jesus carries the gospel message and ministry internationally to the Gentiles. Sometime we might wonder how much He really cares for His own people back home. This text demonstrates how Jesus loves His own. Two very different people come to Him for help. His response is utterly amazing. Let's read the text:

## Mark 5:1-20

**21** And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. **22** Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet **23** and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." **24** And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. **25** And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, **26** and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. **27** She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. **28** For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." **29** And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. **30** And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" **31** And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" **32** And he looked around to see who had done it. **33** But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. **34** And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

**35** While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" **36** But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." **37** And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. **38** They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. **39** And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping." **40** And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. **41** Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." **42** And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. **43** And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

## I. Jesus loves His people deeply (vv. 21-28).

### A. The powerful. (vv. 21-24a)

The synagogue ruler was a prominent man. He had position, wealth, family, title, and an important name. He may have thought he had all he needed, until his twelve year old daughter was struck severely ill. He now comes to Jesus' face, falls down before Him, and begs for his little girl's life. The text simply and beautifully says about Jesus: "And he went with him."

### B. The powerless. (vv. 24b-28)

The woman couldn't be more different from the man. She is nameless, probably homeless, and in a state of poverty, because, in her desperate desire to be cured of her illness, she has exhausted all of her estate on useless remedies. Most importantly, because of her continual illness, she is ritually unclean, and, like the leper in 1: 40-45, must remain in social isolation from her neighbors. That is why she "sneaks up on Jesus" to touch Him and why she comes to Him in fear and trembling when He calls her out.

## II. Jesus heals His people completely (vv. 29-43).

### A. Our diseases (vv. 29-34)

Jesus called this woman out, because He wanted to heal her—completely—not just of her broken body but of her broken relationship with God. That healing can only take place through a personal relationship with Christ through faith, not just by an anonymous, magical touch of His garment.

That is why He then says to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well (literally, “saved you”); go in peace....” she can now go in peace—shalom—the completeness and wholeness described in the Old Testament as God’s full salvation for His people.

### B. Our death (vv. 35-43)

In verse 35, it seems that the party is now over. No matter what the rabbi can do for sick people or demon-possessed people, there’s not anything anybody can do for dead people. While Jesus was distracted by an insignificant person, the little daughter of the prominent man has died. Jesus has a simple instruction for the father: “Do not fear, only believe.” There it is again: the commendation of faith. The professional mourners have already gathered, and they simply laugh at Jesus when He foretells His healing work. But He has a big surprise for everybody. He is the Lord of human life and death, and with a simple word, He raises the dead. “Talitha cumi.” He’s coming back soon to speak a word again over all His people of every age and every nation, who have simply put their faith in Him!

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it that prominent people might think that Jesus is not as interested in them as He is poor people? What’s wrong with that kind of thinking?
2. Why is it that poor people might think that Jesus is more interested in prominent people than He is in poor people? At the root of it, what’s wrong with that sort of thinking?
3. What did the synagogue ruler and the diseased woman have in common that allowed Jesus to work in and through them?
4. Faith is obviously a crucial aspect of this story. What are the essential ingredients of saving faith that you see in this text?
5. If we believe, really believe, in the resurrection, what practical difference does that make in the way we live our lives?

## Going Deeper

What is it in your life that you need to bring to Jesus for healing? What have you tried to hide from Him? From others? What has you afraid, that seems bigger than Jesus’ love and power? Will you come to Him today and trust Him with all your needs?