

## The Story of Jesus

### Part 12: What does it mean to have faith?

Mark 5:21-43 - [watch online](#)

#### Summary:

Faith can mean many different things to different people. But what is it? What's the point of it? And how can we experience a faith that makes a real difference in our lives?

#### Main Points:

[00:47] Trusting someone is one of the riskiest things we can do.

[02:50] Most of what we call "Faith" doesn't seem very trustworthy for real life in the real world.

[03:07] Jesus doesn't require us to believe all the right things.... He just asks us to trust him.

[05:34] When real life tries to take what really matters we need something real we can trust.

[09:02] True faith is trusting the right person, not having all the right beliefs.

[11:24] True faith is about the object of our trust, not the amount of our trust.

[13:17] Hope is never gone when Jesus is involved.

[17:19] Jesus is restoring all of creation and undoing the effects of sin and death.

[25:16] Trusting Jesus gives us realistic yet relentless hope.

**Main Question:** [18:48] What's holding you back from fully trusting Jesus?

**Invitation:** Take first steps of trust:

- [22:19] Tell Jesus what's truly going on
- [22:50] Ask him, "Please help me trust you."
- [23:20] Start practicing
- [24:04] Read the Story of Jesus regularly

#### Discussion Questions:

1. On a scale of 1-10 how trusting would you say you are? Do you feel any past experience(s) have influenced your capacity to trust?
2. Jon said, "True faith is trusting the right person, not having all the right beliefs." How do you think this idea of faith differs from simply having strong or right beliefs? How could/does this perspective change your approach to following Jesus?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4 vv.16-18. Imagine a life where you could fully trust that everything would ultimately be okay, regardless of the circumstances. What aspects of your life would be impacted by this level of trust, and how would it change your perspective?
4. What barriers do you feel are holding you back from fully trusting Jesus right now? What are some ways you could work through those?
5. How can you group pray with you this week?

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#### Transcript:

**IN:** Faith. It's at the core of the human experience. Plays a significant role in so many people's lives. We all have something that guides the way we live.

But, What is faith? How can we have it? And honestly, what's the point? In this episode we'll explore those questions and more... So let's talk about it... together.

**WE:** One of the most terrifying/daunting experiences in life is giving someone else control over something in our lives.

Trusting someone is one of the riskiest things we can do.

- Work/Business / Marriage / Health Decisions / Financial Decisions / Driving

Some of us are pretty trusting... Others not so much... why? B/c we've been burned...

Think about it... Often our past experiences affect our current capacity to trust

- Mechanics / Dating/Marriage / Churches

Truth is... none of us want to be hurt/disappointed/embarrassed/taken advantage of again.

- We become cautious.. Hesitate to trust people and systems... don't want to be let down again.

Now take this idea and apply it to some of life's biggest questions...

- Why is there something instead of nothing?
- Why are we here? Who are we? What's the point of life?
- What happens when we die?
- Why evil?

These questions are where FAITH comes into play.

We often trust our FAITH as a belief system to help us navigate through life...

We hope it's true, but don't really have proof for. Can't really be certain of... but seems to help.

- Some choose it. Others don't
- Some have it. Others can't/won't?

But... when real life hits... when the bottom drops out of our lives...

- Do abstract beliefs and hopes really make a tangible difference?

Most of what we call "Faith" doesn't seem very trustworthy for real life in the real world.

So why is Jesus so different? Why is he so distinct from anything else that claims to offer a solution?

Give me a few more minutes and we'll discover...

Jesus doesn't require us to believe all the right things.... He just asks us to trust him.

**GOD:** Mark/Peter

Profound and Busy day(s) for Jesus and the boys.

- Teaching about KoG... Starts small but will grow exponentially... how no one expects.
- Calms storm / Casts out demons / Get in boat and go back to home base.

But no time to rest... **Mark 5:21-24**

Jairus- What he is doing is risky...

Religious leaders in area not big fans of Jesus.

- Didn't look/act/speak like the good teacher/let alone Jew they expected him to be
- Some were already plotting how to kill Jesus after healed man w/ a withered hand in synagogue on Sabbath.

Coming to Jesus could mean Jairus will lose friends... influence... reputation... income?

But he had reached a point where none of that mattered... Jesus was his last hope.

He knew what Jesus could do... trusted that he could heal his daughter

When real life tries to take what really matters we need something real we can trust.

So he falls at Jesus' feet and pleads with him to heal his daughter... and Jesus goes with him immediately...

But someone else needs Jesus too...

**V. 25-28** What this woman is going through is not just some minor inconvenience.

Not only is she dealing with the physical implications w/o any of our modern ways of coping.

- She's Jewish.

According to the Torah she is considered unclean... must be separated from the rest of the community (Lev. 15:19-33)

- Anything/Anyone she touches or touches her also becomes unclean.

She is isolated, incredibly lonely, unknown, judged, shunned... miserable.

Destitute and hopeless... Spent all her money subjecting herself to ancient doctors... who knows what horrendous "prescriptions" they gave her.

Had lost all hope until she heard Jesus could do the impossible... and she's willing to break the rules to reach him

So she secretly works her way through the crowd

- Very risky... if she's discovered then consequences could be severe... but Jesus is her last hope

If she could just touch his robe...

- Basically a superstitious/magical idea... If you touched a holy man's clothes or even if his shadow passed over you you could be healed.

So she touches Jesus' robe... and it works.

**V. 29-33** She touches Jesus' clothes and she's healed immediately... WHAT?!

The superstition heals her? But she didn't do it the right way. She didn't believe correctly!

Wouldn't you expect Jesus to make sure she believed the right stuff before he healed her?

Nope... She reached out and touched and was healed... why?

B/c even though she was a bit confused/didn't know all the right things... she still trusted Jesus could heal her...

What we see here... True faith is trusting the right person, not having all the right beliefs.

And as she tries to sneak away before she's discovered... her heart drops as this teacher stops the entire crowd and says, "Who touched me?"

Funny (obviously from an eye-witness)... Disciples- What are you talking about? Everyone is touching you!

But Jesus knew he had just healed someone. Power had gone out of him...

Jesus' power to heal didn't come from magical incantations, using the spirits, or even borrowing power from God... the power to heal was/is his... It comes FROM within HIM.

- He is God with the power to restore and bring life.

Did he really not know who it was he healed?

- From what we see about Jesus... I think he knew who it was...

He asks who touched him for the benefit of the woman...

- So that he could talk to her... personally
- So she and everyone else would know she is actually healed and clean
- For her to know it was him... not his magic clothes.

But she doesn't know that... She's still afraid... she just made everyone, including Jesus, unclean.

**V. 33-34** Jesus doesn't reprimand her... he doesn't sit her down for a theology lesson.

He gently and reassuringly calls her DAUGHTER... The only recorded time he called someone that.

And he says, "Your FAITH has made you well"...

- It wasn't the clothes... it was that she believed hard enough?
- No, her faith/trust in Jesus made her well.

True faith is about the object of our trust, not the amount of our trust.

Her faith wasn't sophisticated... completely thought out/charted... didn't know much about Jesus

- Knew he had healed others. Trusted that he could heal her
- Took the step to reach out and touch him
- Faith is what we do... not what we say we believe... VERB instead of NOUN
- Is your faith VERB/NOUN?

And tells her, "Go in peace... Your suffering is over... you are clean."

So she goes in peace... but Jairus must be anything but peaceful... this whole thing is taking precious time that his daughter doesn't have...

**V. 35**- It's over. All hope is gone...

**V. 36**- But Jesus... Hope is never gone when Jesus is involved.

This translations say OVERHEARD... others say Jesus IGNORED them... I like that better.

He ignores their hopeless message... takes Jairus by the shoulders, looks him in the eye and says one of God's favorite sentences... DON'T BE AFRAID.

Might seem simplistic... "Oh gee thanks that helps... I'll just stop being afraid..."

Remember... True faith is about the object of our trust, not the amount of our trust.

Jesus says, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith" Just trust me.

- Don't be fooled by what may seem hopeless... I'm bringing a new reality.

Hopeless situations are Jesus' speciality.

**V. 37-40a.** [...crowd laughed at him.] Commotion... professional mourners. Allowed the family to grieve.

"Why all of this commotion? Why this hopelessness... she's only asleep."

Wait so she's not dead? No she's dead.

- It takes some time to assemble mourners... They knew what dead was

What does Jesus mean then?... Her death is real but it is temporary.

When this is over it will seem as though she's been asleep this whole time.

What follows is one of the most beautiful scenes in the Story of Jesus...

**V. 40b-43** Jesus holds the girl's hand and says... Talitha koum.

- One of the few times the Gospels keep Jesus' original Aramaic words.
- It must have made such an impact on Peter that everytime he told the story he retained Jesus' original Aramaic language...

It's just such a beautiful, tender, and personal moment... "Little girl, get up."

- Me and Quinn... Good morning, Little Bean.
- The pain and overwhelming relief.

And she immediately wakes up and starts walking around... She's 12 so obviously she's starving.

- Jesus says feed this girl! (Eyewitness)

What we are seeing play out is... **Jesus is restoring all of creation and undoing the effects of sin and death.**

He said he was bringing the KoG to earth but it would start off small but relentlessly and exponentially grow

And then he proved it

- Calmed the storm... restoring nature.
- Rescued a man from an army of demons... defeating evil
- And now he healed a broken body and reversed death... restoring life.

God himself has stepped into our seemingly hopeless world/stories and has started fixing everything...

- Showing that he will keep his promise and one day restore everything

He is bringing his kingdom to earth and all of these healings/miracles are just first tastes of what is coming.

The ultimate promise was his own resurrection... showing his complete victory over the most hopeless experience in humanity... the finality of death.

**YOU:** As we sit with this... Question: **What's holding you back from fully trusting Jesus?**

- Whether it's with a specific situation or your story as a whole

**Feel like you don't know enough or maybe not sure who he is?**

- How is that different from the woman he healed?
- Sometimes trust comes first then we understand...
  - Kids don't know how cars work... but trust parents to drive them and later they learn how it works.
- Remember: True faith is trusting the right person, not having all the right beliefs or understanding

**Fear? It's scary to trust someone else.**

- What if it doesn't work out the way I want?
  - It might not...
  - It's true. Jesus doesn't always heal... there were many young girls who weren't raised from the dead.
  - But someday he WILL raise them...
  - One day he promises to whisper to all of us... "Good morning, Little One."

- From what you know of Jesus, Is he good or not? Can you trust his decision to heal or not heal?

### **Pride?**

- You've got this... you don't need help? How has that been going for you?
- You're not one of those religious people?
  - It's not about religion...
  - It's about... is the historical Jesus who he said he is?
  - Can he do what he said he can do?

### **Shame?** I don't deserve Jesus' attention.

- Just like the woman... When Jesus touches unclean things he doesn't become unclean. They become clean.
- He invites all of us to trust him reach out and touch him.

So whatever is keeping you from fully trusting Jesus...

### **Invitation-**

#### **Take first steps of trust:**

#### **Tell Jesus what's truly going on.**

- What's on your heart/mind? What challenge you're facing... what you're worried/stressed about

We start trusting Jesus by being willing to be fully ourselves and honest with him.

Then take the next step and **ask him, "Please help me trust you."**

- He wants to walk with us in all of it. Doesn't just demand we believe.

And then... **Start practicing**... Trust takes practice. The more we do it... the more it makes sense... the more it becomes part of us

Maybe you need to physically hand it to him... (why some people raise their hands during music)

- When fear, worry, a desire to control comes on... Ask Jesus... Help me trust you.

**Read the Story of Jesus regularly**- The more we know Jesus the more natural it becomes to trust him...

**WE:** So imagine a life of actually being able to trust your life to something/someone concrete. Not just a hopeful ideal.

A real live person who proved that he is infinitely more than a person. Who proved he sees us, loves us, and is bringing God's kingdom and restoration to the world one person at a time.

Imagine a life where no matter what happens you can actually know things really will be ok in the end.

What peace, confidence, assurance, joy, patience, hope... Would that give you?

That is the life we are invited to... that is the life Jesus offers.

**Trusting Jesus gives us realistic yet relentless hope.**

- It's what the apostle Paul explained in **2 Cor 4:16-18**