



# Table Talk

By Rev. Timothy J. Swenson • ILT Dean of Chapel

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

June 27, 2021

## MARK 5:21-43

*"Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" Vs. 35*



"Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" Vs. 35

The lectionary has provided several weeks of people bewildered, perplexed, and confused at Jesus and his words. In this text, you must listen closely to hear the confusion. The lengthy pericope is set in the context of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue pleading to Jesus to save the life of his dying daughter. He presents the first confusion. Rather than claiming the authority of Jesus' Word, he asks for the laying of hands—a tactile event—for the healing of his daughter (vs. 23). The disciples exhibit the second confusion when they think that the press of the crowd would prevent Jesus' knowing who had touched him (vs. 31). And the third confusion is delivered by those who came from Jairus' house. In saying, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" they display their confusion as to just how far the Word of Jesus reaches: It reaches into death itself.

Jesus resolves Jairus' confusion by not laying his hands upon the dead daughter. He first changes the situation by declaring the daughter to be merely sleeping rather than dead (vs. 39). Then he takes her hand and addresses her with his Word which reaches even into that great sleep sometimes called death (vs. 41). Upon hearing the Word of her Lord and savior, the girl

awakened from the sleep of death, walked about, and received food at Jesus' command. This event refuted the confusion of those who had come as messengers from Jairus' house. They saw that it was no trouble at all for Jesus to raise the dead.

Jesus' resolution of the disciples' confusion as to who had touched him needs a bit of explanation. Jesus "looked around to see who had done it" (vs. 32). The woman who had touched felt that gaze as an accusation of the law. She was convicted and came forward to confess. Jesus said to her, "Go in peace and be healed of your disease" (vs. 34)! Jesus was not confused by the press of crowd as his disciples were. He knew and received the confession of the woman who touched him. The woman received healing, not in the absence of a Word from Jesus, but in anticipation of his Word of healing (vs. 34).

So too with you. As a great and deep sinner, you live in the anticipation of Jesus forgiving your sins. You hear them forgiven and rest in that forgiveness even as you live in the anticipation of hearing it again.

**Table Talk:** Discuss the ways in which we are confused by the power of the Word.

**Pray:** Heavenly Father, grant me such confidence in your Word that I may count on it even in death. Amen.



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## MARK 5:21-43 ESV

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.



# Table Talk

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Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 27, 2021

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