



## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

### **Mark 5:21-43 Jesus heals a sick woman and raises a dead child (27 June)**

As Jesus continues his mission to deliver people, here we have two incidents in which he brings purity to the impure and restores the dead to life. He shows the source of his power by doing what only God can do.

The woman is saved not only from her physical illness, but also from its religious and social consequences. Her condition makes her ceremonially unclean, meaning that she is barred from attending worship; it also cuts her off from other people who would be fearful of touching her because that would make them also unclean. Jesus addresses her as daughter – a very compassionate way of speaking to her – and, as so often, the coming together of Jesus' power and a person's faith in him results in healing.

The way the story of Jairus's daughter is interwoven with the woman's story – Mark's 'split-screen' technique – encourages us to see themes that are common to both. As Jesus ignores their very different social standings and restores both to 'life' in the community, we see his response to those who come to him in faith, his care for women, his gentle compassion, and his power as he speaks with God's authority over both illness and death.

1. Tell the story of v.21-43 through Jairus's eyes, focussing on his experience with Jesus.
2. Tell the story through the eyes of the woman.
3. These two situations are different from one another, but what similarities do you see? How are Jairus and the woman different from one another?
4. What sort of fears are involved in the two stories? Are there such things as good fears and bad fears? How do fear and faith relate? How does Mark contrast fear and faith in each story? How do we turn our fears into faith?
5. What qualities of Jesus here encourage you to trust him in times of crisis?
6. Jairus is powerless to save his daughter. What does he expect from Jesus, and what does he get? What do we expect when we speak to Jesus, and are we prepared to get something that might be different?

*This series on Mark's gospel will continue until the beginning of September.*