

Groups.

Jesus still meets people personally and powerfully. Drawing from Mark 5, the stories of Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood revealed that Jesus is near to our pain and able to transform even the most desperate situations. Both Jairus and the woman displayed faith - one through public desperation, the other through quiet determination - and both encountered life where there had been loss and hope where there was despair.

These miracles remind us that Jesus' work goes beyond physical healing; it's about restoration, renewal, and freedom from the labels that confine us. The parallel of twelve years of suffering and twelve years of life points to His power over both long-term pain and new beginnings.

As a response, we are invited to reach out in faith - to push past hesitation, disappointment, and doubt - and to make room for Jesus to move again.

REFLECTION

Share something that stood out from the Sunday message 'Encounters with Jesus'.

MESSAGE POINTS.

One: Faith That Reaches for Jesus Brings Healing and Freedom

When the woman with the issue of blood reached out to touch Jesus' cloak, she did so in desperation and faith, believing that even the smallest contact with Him could bring the healing she had sought for years. Her suffering had isolated her, but her faith moved her to push through the crowd and the shame, trusting that Jesus alone could make her whole. In that moment, Jesus not only healed her physically but also restored her dignity, calling her "daughter" and affirming her faith. No matter how long you have struggled or how unworthy you may feel, Jesus welcomes your honest, wholehearted approach - He is ready to meet you with compassion and power.

Mark 5:25-34 (ESV)

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked around to see who had done it. 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. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease."

Discussion

- **What does reaching for Jesus look like for you right now?**

The woman reached out in faith despite fear, shame, and disappointment. What "crowds" or barriers in your own life might you need to push through to encounter Jesus personally again.

- **How has Jesus met you in places of pain or isolation?**

Her healing was not just physical - it was relational and spiritual. In what ways do you sense Jesus inviting you to let Him restore not only your circumstances, but also your sense of identity and belonging.

- **What step of faith could you take this week to draw closer to Jesus?**

Her small, simple act of reaching became the doorway to freedom. What might it look like for you to take one small, intentional step - through prayer, confession, or obedience - that opens space for His power to move?

Two: Do Not Fear - Just Believe

When Jairus received the devastating news that his daughter had died, Jesus immediately spoke words of hope over him: "Do not fear, only believe." Life will always present us with reasons to be afraid, but God's Word offers a daily invitation to trust Him instead of giving in to fear. Even when circumstances seem final or hopeless, Jesus calls us to hold onto faith, reminding us that His power is greater than any obstacle or loss. Today, let His voice be louder than the voices of fear, and choose to believe that He is able to do what seems impossible.

Mark 5:35-36 (ESV)

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?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

Discussion

- **What voices of fear are the loudest in your life right now?**

Jairus had to choose which voice to believe - the voice of fear or the voice of Jesus.

What are some situations or thoughts that try to drown out your faith, and how can you tune your heart to hear Jesus' voice above them.

- **What does choosing faith over fear look like in practical terms?**

Faith isn't the absence of fear - it's the decision to trust Jesus in the middle of it.

How can you actively demonstrate belief in God's promises when everything around you feels uncertain or hopeless.

- **Where is Jesus inviting you to believe again?**

When all seemed lost, Jesus called Jairus to keep believing.

Is there an area of your life - maybe long delayed, deeply painful, or seemingly "dead" - where you sense Him saying, "Do not fear, only believe"?

Three: Jesus Turns Death into Life

The story of Jairus' daughter and the woman with the issue of blood is a powerful reminder that Jesus brings life where there is death and hope where there is despair. Both the girl and the woman had experienced twelve years - one of life, one of suffering - but in a single encounter with Jesus, everything changed. He is not intimidated by what seems dead or hopeless; instead, He speaks life and restoration. No matter what feels beyond repair in your life, Jesus is able to breathe new life and bring about a miraculous turnaround.

Mark 5:41-42 (ESV)

Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.

Discussion

- **Where do you need Jesus to speak "arise" in your life?**

Jesus' words carried resurrection power - bringing life where everyone else saw death. Is there an area of your life, faith, or relationships that feels lifeless or stuck, where you need to invite Jesus to breathe life again?

- **What does it mean to believe that nothing is beyond Jesus' reach?**

Both Jairus and the woman faced situations that seemed final, yet Jesus overturned them. How can remembering His power reshape the way you face disappointment, delay, or despair?

- **How can your story of "life restored" bring hope to others?**

When the girl rose, her healing became a testimony that amazed everyone around her. Who around you needs to see or hear that Jesus still brings life, and how can you share your story to strengthen their faith?

Four: Hold Fast to God's Promise Even When You Can't See It

It is easy to doubt God's promises when you see Him working in others' lives but not your own, or when you can't see any evidence of change. Like Jairus, who watched Jesus heal

someone else while his own need seemed to go unmet, we are called to trust that God is working even when we cannot see it. The right voices in your life matter - surround yourself with people who encourage your faith, not those who sow doubt. Even if you don't understand the timing or the process, keep believing that what God has spoken, He will bring to pass.

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Discussion

- **How do you respond when it feels like God is working for others but not for you?**

Jairus watched someone else's miracle while waiting for his own.

What helps you keep faith alive when your prayers seem unanswered or delayed.

- **Whose voices are shaping your faith right now?**

Jesus removed the doubters from the room before raising the girl.

Who do you allow to speak into your situation and how can you intentionally surround yourself with people who strengthen your belief, not your fear.

- **What promise from God do you need to hold onto again?**

Faith means trusting that God is working even when you can't yet see it.

Is there a specific word, Scripture, or promise you once believed but have grown weary waiting for and what would it look like to trust Him afresh today.

WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/@LIFEMelbourne/videos>

NEW SERVICE!

We Are excited to announce that from Sunday 12 October, the new 1.30pm service is launching!! Together with our 9am, 11am and 6pm services, we are following God's leading, putting out another jar for God to pour into, so we can increasingly reach Melbourne with the hope and love of Jesus.

This isn't just about another service - it's about:

- **Making room for more** – more people, more families, more of our city encountering Jesus.
- **Preparing for West** – gathering and empowering a team so we are ready when God opens the door for a new campus.
- **Ownership for everyone** – creating opportunities for all of us to engage our God-given part.
- **God's blueprint** – a multiplication model that sets us up for what God has ahead.

Every faith step requires a stretch, but as we multiply, our prayer is that it will be done in strength.

As we take this God-led step of obedience, we carry an expectation that it will enable many to step up in ownership and engage their God-given part. If LIFE is your home but you're yet to play your part, we'd love to have you join a great team across any one of the four Sunday services.



If you love church, this is how you can help others to love it too!

Do you love to make people smile? Do you love to make someone's day? Do you love helping others?

We believe that serving on team is an expression of love for God, the church and others, so check out some of the ways that you can make a difference on team, doing the things that you love!

Play My Part - <https://lifeau.org/playmypart/#findateam>

GROUP PRAYER POINTS

Pray for each other's personal journey as a disciple and discipleship in our church

- Being in the presence of Jesus, becoming more like Jesus and continuing the work He did.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence

- That we would be led, filled and empowered to live surrendered, love God and serve others.

Pray for Decade of Destiny

- **Debt Free on Sims and Stage One** Believe that we could be debt free on the purchase of Sims St and the stage one fit-out costs.
- **Launch Two New LIFE Campuses** That we would pioneer two additional LIFE campuses across Melbourne and continue to make room for more people to discover the wonder of Jesus, find their family and step into all that God leads.
- **LIFE Homes** To have short-, medium- and long-term accommodation navigable to enable emergency support, crisis help and essential care to key areas of vulnerability.
- **Education Services Engaged** It is our vision that we will have multiple pathways that we will be able to bring lasting transformation to our communities through learning and education and reverse the cycle of poverty.
- **Sims Street Revival** God is entrusting us to first and foremost lift up the names of Jesus and see many thousands upon thousands discover His eternal life.

UPCOMING DATES

7th October – Sims Street Community Kitchen Launch

9th October – Alpha

9th October – The Book of Acts

13th October – LIFE Business Night

19th October – Water Baptism

20th October – Prayer & Fasting

24th – 25th October – Sistahood Conference

26th October – Ps Jemima Varughese