



# Praying the Scripture - a few simple steps at home

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021

1. Start with stillness and quietening down; then gently read the passage, noticing any feelings and connections to your own experience.
2. Read the passage again and spend understand. *The notes in your Bible may be of help at this point.*
3. Read the passage a third time - wondering how you yourself might pray the text over the next few days.
4. Over the next week, set aside times to come back more than once to the passage. You could read it all or part of it again, slowly. Perhaps there is a special word for you in this passage of Scripture? Keep this word or phrase in your thoughts and gently repeat it, bringing it to mind and allowing God to speak to you in your heart.
5. Finally, come back to the text to conclude: What is God in this scripture asking of you this week? What is the one challenge, one little change you are asked to make or the thing you have been asked to do? Then say a prayer of thanksgiving for the good news in the passage. End in quiet prayer.



### THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL –

#### **Mark 5:21-43** Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

*When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, '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.'* So he went with him.

*And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.'* Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

*While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then 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. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.*



### A Short Thought

*Mark's gospel is like the highlight tape of Jesus. His greatest hits. It's short, fast-paced, and to the point. But that doesn't mean it's simple. It has layers, like the rest of the Bible. It's simple enough for a child yet so deep we'll never reach the bottom.*

*Our passage today has layers, like a sandwich. Two stories in one. And you can't break it apart. You need the whole thing to make a meal. Together, they teach one biblical mega-lesson. What's the lesson? This: the most crucial element of our life is faith. It's quite clear that these two stories are very, very different. And yet, at*

their core—and at their most profound level—they are the very same story. They are, in fact, the stories of two people, who, when they came in contact with Jesus, were transformed from death to life.

*The woman gave us the first lesson of faith—coming in honesty. Jairus’ story gives us another layer—sticking through hardship. So when we look at our own lives and experience when we really look at what questions and strengthens our faith it is there that we encounter the Jesus who never loses faith in us - Until we encounter Jesus, until we are either touched by Jesus, or reach out and touch Jesus ourselves, then—and only then—are we delivered from death and given the sacred gift of life. Where have you reached out or touched Jesus?*

## SOME POINTERS FOR PRAYER

1. During his life on earth, Jesus revealed the mind of God to us. From him we learn that God hates sin but loves the sinner, He hates sickness but He loves the sick, He hates death but He loves the dying. In today’s Gospel we hear how he responded to the plea of a father who feared for the life of his twelve year old daughter. Looking back over your life where have you seen God revealed to you?
2. Like this woman, have you had the experience of a cure, an improvement, a success, after a long period of nothing happening? What was that like for you? What made the difference? On that occasion was there anything different in you, in others, in the circumstances – something that paved the way for the change or improvement?
3. Perhaps you are suffering right now--burning with anger at someone who has hurt you, or unable to forgive an old hurt, or you are a bit depressed. Talk with the woman who had been in pain for twelve years. Listen to her telling you to touch Jesus’ cloak. Imagine doing that. Where have you brushed against Jesus?
4. Note the stress that Jesus places on faith in both stories. To the woman he says: “Daughter, your faith has made you well”. And to Jairus: “Do not fear, only believe”. What does this say to you as you live your life as a Christian today?
5. In prayer this week, try to spend time talking to Jesus about his work of healing, bring your suffering to him. Dwell with the reality that we spend a lot of time trying to make sense of things that at times there is no answer for and it is only his profound and personal love that can give us this sense of our unfathomable worth.

## Prayer -

God of the living, in whose image we have been formed with imperishable life as our destiny, dispel from your people the fear of death and awaken within us the faith that saves. Make us aware of your unfailing love at work in our lives. Give us the courage to reach out, the faith to touch and the awareness to know when we brush against you each day that we may take our place in the new creation. I ask this as always through Christ our lord, **Amen**

### Prayer in these uncertain times

*We pray for all those in our country and throughout the world suffering from the Corona Virus. May its victims and their families be strengthened by the support of our community of faith and restored soon to full health. We also pray for our leaders and medical personnel who deal with the virus. May we keep calm and may we join together in solidarity with care and compassion to tackle this emergency. This we ask in confidence through Christ Our Lord. Amen*

