

## Mark 5:21-6:6

### Comforting Authority

Tonight we continue our series in Mark's gospel  
And last Sunday in the first half of chapter 5  
We saw the *confronting* authority of Jesus  
The strength of Jesus, Son of the Most High God  
over the Legion of demons tormenting a man  
And tonight in the second half chapter 5 we see the *comforting* authority of Jesus  
As he meets two people grappling with sickness and death

As usual, an outline of the talk or the full transcript are available on the foyer table  
Or can be downloaded on the livestream page of the Bundy Website  
Please keep your bibles open as we look at the bible references together

Let me pray

Have you ever found yourself in a situation of complete and utter helplessness  
In my first few years at uni I had the tendency to leave things until the last minute  
I had a few subjects where I opened the textbook from its plastic wrapping  
On the night before the exam  
As I was aiming just to pass the subject  
I'm not proud of it now  
So please learn from this terrible attitude of your church pastor  
Anyway it all came to spectacularly backfire on me when I scored 48.8 percent  
In my second year Biochemistry exam  
And if you don't know how close I was to passing  
I prepared a slide to show you

And that was a problem because I wanted to major in third year Biochem  
And I didn't want to repeat a whole year of uni, just to do that  
And so I did what a helpless person does  
I wrote a letter to Professor Wettenhall  
Head of Biochem at Melbourne Uni  
On my knees pleading for a supplementary exam  
I can't remember what I wrote  
I probably put in a slide like that one  
And incredibly he allowed me to sit a supplementary exam that Summer  
And I passed and I went on to major in Biochemistry  
And here I am today as a pastor of a local church

That is not a real example of being helpless  
That is a better example of being foolish  
I think the first time I felt really helpless  
Was at the start of VCE when I was 17 and my parents told us they were getting divorced  
And there have been recent times of feeling helpless  
Like late last year when a relative was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer  
Some of you have already had these times in your life  
And if you haven't yet you will  
Times when you feel the ground beneath you give away  
When you feel sick and close to despair

What do you then?  
Who do you turn to?  
Tonight, we're going to meet two people who were feeling utterly helpless  
And in their desperation they turn to Jesus

Let's meet the first person - Jairus

### **Jairus' daughter - part 1 (5:21-24)**

<sup>21</sup> When Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the sea. <sup>22</sup> One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and begged him earnestly, "My little daughter is dying. Come and lay your hands on her so that she can get well and live." <sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with him, and a large crowd was following and pressing against him.

After the rejection of the people at Gerasenes  
Jesus returns to the other side of Lake Galilee  
We're not told exactly where but it's possible its Capernaum where Jesus has been before  
And if it's Capernaum  
It's not surprising that there is already a mob of people waiting for him  
Back in chapter 1 we're told that the whole town came to Jesus  
Where he healed many of sickness  
Maybe word had already travelled that Jesus was coming  
The crowd is right there waiting for Jesus as he gets off the boat  
The thing was that the healing was not the main thing Jesus came for  
Teaching the gospel is why he came it says back in chapter 1  
In fact the healing made life more difficult because it brought the crowds  
And it meant that Jesus had to move to more remote places  
But Jesus continues to heal because of his compassion

And forcing his way to the front of the crowd we meet Jairus  
Someone who must have had some status in the town  
The synagogue was a local place of worship  
Where Jewish people would go to pray to God  
And hear the Scriptures read and taught  
Jairus as the synagogue ruler, would have had the role of choosing and supervising  
Those who read and taught the scriptures  
So Jairus is someone of influence  
But that doesn't matter to Jesus  
Because right now he is just a helpless father in need  
His daughter is not only sick, she's dying  
And Jairus is someone who shows faith in Jesus in his hour of helplessness

And right throughout Mark's gospel  
Mark gives us snapshots of people who have faith in Jesus  
And these are clues for his readers in helping us to know what faith looks like for us  
The faith that Jesus responds to  
Back in chapter 2 we see Jesus responding to the faith of the paralysed man's friends  
Later in Mark 7 we see the faith of the Syrophoenician woman in seeking Jesus to drive out  
a demon from her daughter  
In Mark 10 we see the faith of Bartimaeus the blind man crying out to Jesus for mercy

And here in chapter 5 we see two people responding to Jesus in faith.

What does this faith look like?

I call it DDT

Desperate Dependent Trust

Jairus is desperate and dependent on Jesus because he is all out of options

He turns to and trust in Jesus

Because he knows Jesus alone can do something about his situation

There are often times when I feel very helpless in my job

But the times where I have felt the most helpless is with families with sick or dying children

Once I was with a couple at the Royal Children's Hospital

It was late, about 10 or 11 at night

And this couple's daughter needed urgent surgery

She had been born very premature at 27 weeks

And there was a perforation in her intestine

And I was with the couple when one of the surgical team said to them

"Your daughter will die unless we operate"

The surgeons went into the operating theatre with their tiny daughter

Who could fit into one hand

And the three of us sat outside the operating theatre

I felt completely helpless

And I can only imagine how helpless this couple felt

And so I did the only thing I could do with them

I prayed with them and we cried out to God for mercy and healing

And God heard and answered those prayers

As the surgical team were able to fix the perforation

And that tiny baby is now a happy and healthy girl in primary school

I can't read about Jairus' daughter without thinking of this incident

And remembering that sense of helplessness

But the good thing is,

Jesus sees our helplessness

And he responds to DDT

Jesus is willing, he goes with Jairus to walk towards his home

Walking with a crowd pressing in on you

Wanting a piece of you

Must have been frustratingly slow

Especially for Jairus

And what would be worse is if Jesus stopped for some reason.

### **Enter the bleeding woman**

Verse 25

<sup>25</sup> Now a woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years <sup>26</sup> had endured much under many doctors. She had spent everything she had and was not helped at all. On the contrary, she became worse. <sup>27</sup> Having heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothing.

<sup>28</sup> For she said, "If I just touch his clothes, I'll be made well." <sup>29</sup> Instantly her flow of blood ceased, and she sensed in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

This crowd of people following Jesus  
Is the perfect context for this woman  
Because she is on a secret mission  
You see she shouldn't be there in that crowd  
According to the ceremonial laws of Leviticus 15  
Because of her constant bleeding she would have been considered unclean  
According to the Old Testament law,  
Certain bodily discharges of men and women  
Made you unclean for a period of time  
Now note, this was not a law regarding morality  
It's not that this lady is sinning in her bleeding  
But her bleeding made her ritually unclean  
The laws in relation to being clean and unclean  
Were a matter of reminding the people of the holiness of God and how to approach Him  
And how to live with His people  
That means she could not worship at the temple  
And she could not come into contact with others

So imagine how much suffering this woman is going through  
There's the physical suffering – the actual bleeding  
The economic suffering – she's spent all her savings on medical treatment that doesn't work  
The emotional suffering – this has been going on for twelve long years  
The social suffering – she's isolated from people otherwise they become unclean  
The spiritual suffering – her uncleanness means she can't worship at the temple  
This lady is completely different to Jairus  
No status, no influence, ritually unclean  
Jairus falls dramatically in front of the crowd at Jesus' feet  
This woman quietly sneaks through the crowd to get to Jesus' feet  
But one thing she has in common with Jairus  
And that's her DDT

In a state of complete helplessness  
Her desperate dependent trust drives her to Jesus  
“Maybe he can do something for me”  
And he does.  
The instant she touches his cloak  
Her bleeding stops  
She's been highly aware of her body for years  
And she knows she's been healed by Jesus  
That's the first part of the mission accomplished  
Now to quietly sneak away without anyone finding out.

Except she's busted

Verse 30

<sup>30</sup> Immediately Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?”

<sup>31</sup> His disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”

<sup>32</sup> But he was looking around to see who had done this.

Jesus felt something too  
And he knows someone is responsible  
He stops on his journey to Jairus' house  
And he looks around at the crowd  
And imagine how the woman is feeling  
Hoping against hope that Jesus won't lock his gaze on her  
Perhaps even worse than the suffering of the bleeding  
Is now the risk of shame in an honour shame culture  
Jesus might expose her for what she's done  
How she's been bleeding for twelve years  
How she shouldn't be there  
How she's taken something from him without asking  
She is incredibly vulnerable  
So rather than being found out  
She decides to come clean

### Verse 33

<sup>33</sup> The woman, with fear and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be healed from your affliction."

Jesus' reaction to her is completely unexpected  
Last week, we saw the confronting authority of Jesus  
His frightening power to rebuke storms and demons  
And the woman is expecting this kind of authority from Jesus  
And what she gets instead is the comforting authority of Jesus  
Instead of calling her Unclean, Jesus calls her Daughter  
Instead of rebuking her for taking from him, Jesus commends her faith that has saved her  
Instead of fearful shame, Jesus leaves her with peace and healing

Rebecca McLaughlin in her book  
Jesus through the eyes of women puts it so well

Instead of humiliating this woman Jesus validates her. She's been excluded from the temple for 12 years and now she's welcomed by the one who is the temple where we meet with God. If we come to Jesus with our need, our desperation, and our shame, we can know he will receive us with tenderness too. He may not heal us here and now. He doesn't promise that. But when we come to him in need, he surely turns himself toward us and receives us, just as he received this woman's touch and justified her actions: "Daughter your faith has made you well"

It's a beautiful scene isn't it?  
The comforting authority of Jesus responded to this woman's DDT  
Why?  
Because of his compassion  
Jesus gave this woman more than she could have asked for or imagined

### **Jairus's daughter - part 2 (5:35-43)**

But let's not forget Jairus  
For with this pause to speak to this woman  
Precious seconds are ticking by

Can you imagine Jairus quietly tearing his hair out?

And then the unthinkable happens

Verse 35

<sup>35</sup> While he was still speaking, people came from the synagogue leader's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher anymore?"

<sup>36</sup> When Jesus overheard what was said, he told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid. Only believe."

Those words, "Your daughter is dead"

Must have sucked the life out of Jairus

There is nothing worse than outliving your children

What must have made it worse is thinking "if only"

Jesus was so near my house

"If only" I had gotten to him earlier

"If only" he hadn't stopped

But it doesn't matter now, she's dead

In that moment, Jesus says "No need for fear Jairus, just faith" – Only Believe

You know that DDT you showed before

I want you to show it again

They reach the house

Verse 37

<sup>37</sup> He did not let anyone accompany him except Peter, James, and John, James's brother. <sup>38</sup> They came to the leader's house, and he saw a commotion—people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep." <sup>40</sup> They laughed at him, but he put them all outside.

As Jesus did from time to time in Mark's gospel

He takes only his inner circle of three disciples with him – Peter, James and John

They will be the witnesses of what happens next

They get to the house

And it's possible that there were professional mourners at Jairus' house

Like there is in some Asian countries

Hence why they moved from weeping to laughing

Which seems pretty insensitive

They find what Jesus says about this girl delusional

Jairus' daughter is well and truly dead not asleep

Verse 40

He took the child's father, mother, and those who were with him, and entered the place where the child was. <sup>41</sup> Then he took the child by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum" (which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, get up"). <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl got up and began to walk. (She was twelve years old.) At this they were utterly astounded. <sup>43</sup> Then he gave them strict orders that no one should know about this and told them to give her something to eat.

Here in this young girl's room filled with death and grief

Jesus shows us once again His comforting authority

He reaches out to touch the hand of this dead body

Something that should have made Jesus ritually unclean  
But this is the Son of God Most High  
Jesus is not afraid of death's curse  
Instead the power that healed the bleeding woman  
Now brings the dead to life  
And with those precious words, "Little girl get up"  
Jesus wakes the dead as easily as I wake my children from an afternoon nap

Those words Jesus said to Jairus, "only believe"  
Would have been ringing in his ears  
As he stood there dumbfounded  
As with the bleeding woman,  
Because of his compassion  
Jesus has done more for Jairus than he could ever ask for or imagine

And as always the first application for us is not what should we do  
But who is Jesus  
We should walk away tonight with a bigger, richer, deeper understanding of who Jesus is  
And the thing I want you to see tonight is that Jesus is both strong *and* gentle

If you came last week  
You have already seen the commanding strength of Jesus  
He is strong over storms and demons  
Tonight you've seen his strength again  
This time over sickness  
And the greatest enemy - death itself

But I also want you to see the gentleness of Jesus  
Look at how he calls the woman who's been suffering for twelve years "Daughter"  
And treats her with such love and dignity  
Giving her not only healing for her body,  
But also dignity in front of the crowd  
Because her Saviour does not consider her unclean

Look at the gentleness of Jesus with this twelve-year old girl  
He told them not to tell others about her resurrection  
Not for his own sake but I think for this girl's sake  
He didn't want her swamped by the town's busy bodies  
And he is also concerned that she has food  
Because dying must really work up an appetite

One of the Old Testament prophecies that Jesus fulfils is found in Isaiah 42  
Where it says of him:

<sup>3</sup> He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.

<sup>4</sup> A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,

Think about how fragile a bruised reed is  
To most people a bruised reed is useless – something to be rejected and discarded

But for Jesus - bruised reeds are broken people  
Wounded physically, emotionally, mentally, socially, spiritually  
The bleeding woman is a bruised reed  
Jairus and his daughter are bruised reeds  
The gentle ministry of Jesus is not about violence and oppression  
The gentle ministry of Jesus is not about control and abuse

There's this misconception that gentleness is weakness  
That is not the case at all  
I hope what you're seeing is that Jesus is not weak but gentle  
Gentleness is strength under control  
Strength used not for self-seeking purposes  
But used for the good of others

There are plenty of people who are strong but harsh  
Strong but self-promoting  
Strong but aggressive and controlling  
Can I ask you who this is?  
Andrew Tate since last year has been blowing up on social media  
He's already been banned from a couple of platforms  
But for many boys and young men  
He has become a model of masculine strength  
A professional kickboxer  
With a self-disciplined, shredded physique  
Always standing in front of a luxury jet, car or mansion  
Surrounded by attractive women  
Sexually dominant  
Outspoken against woke elites and cancel culture  
Self-styled as a defender of traditional values of men doing their duty  
Providing for and protecting women  
Many believe that all this is a thin veil for aggressive misogyny  
Tate is currently in a Romanian prison with his brother Tristan  
Under investigation for rape and trafficking of women  
Millions of his opponents are cheering  
Millions of his supporters deny all the charges  
And affirm that he is innocent and he has been framed  
He has ex-girlfriends defending him  
He has ex-girlfriends accusing him of being abusive and controlling  
If you're a bloke  
You can pay \$49 per month to join his "Hustlers University"  
That's right that's what its called  
And he will disciple you in how to live like him  
And the website just has multiple pictures of Andrew Tate everywhere  
With his Bugatti  
With his jet  
All paid for with blokes coughing \$49 per month  
And if you're a bloke he is more than willing to take money from you  
Using one of the many web cam girls he employs to deceive you out of money  
You see Andrew Tate uses his strength to help Andrew Tate  
And there's something insecure about a guy always needing to tell you  
Just how strong and successful he is



He needs to flex all the time  
This is not real strength  
There is nothing strong about Andrew “Cobra” Tate  
And yet he is attracting a massive following for his so called strength

If in some way you are drawn to this as a model of strength  
You can do so, so much better  
Next time you’re utterly helpless,  
Next time you are in a desperate situation  
Would you turn to someone like the Cobra?

Jesus is the strongest person in every room he’s in  
But he never feels the need to flex  
Jesus is the strongest person in every room  
But He never feels the need to dominate others  
Jesus is the strongest person in every room  
But he never needs to promote his own brand  
Because Jesus is also the gentlest person in every room  
And because he’s the gentlest  
You can turn to him in your helplessness  
Because he’s the gentlest you can be weak in front of him  
You can be dependent on His strength  
Because He will never use his strength to harm you  
Look at Jesus on the cross  
He had the strength to destroy those who hated him  
And in his gentleness he died for them instead

How many people do you know in your life who are both strong *and* gentle?  
I suspect you know a lot of people who are one or the other but never both  
This is why you need the comforting authority of Jesus

After this, Jesus and his disciples leave the Galilee region  
And head to his hometown of Nazareth  
And here we learn something of Jesus’ family – he was the oldest of four brothers  
And he had more than one sister.  
And Mary is mentioned but not Joseph  
So it seems likely that Joseph might have passed away already at this point

Now you would think that Jesus would be returning to a hero’s welcome in his home town  
Word would have travelled about all the amazing things he was doing  
And now they could see Jesus’ ministry firsthand  
And as Jesus does – the first thing he does is he teaches at the local synagogue  
And his hometown recognises something of his authority  
They see the wisdom in his teaching  
They recognise the power in his miracles  
But here is the conclusion they reach

Verse 3

So they were offended by him.<sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his household.”<sup>5</sup> He was not able to do a

miracle there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Wow I used to think Australia started the Tall Poppy Syndrome  
But clearly it could never have been worse than in Nazareth  
I mean this is where the Son of God was raised  
Surely his family, his friends, his neighbours would be the first to recognise his identity?  
And it turns out the opposite is true  
Remember that phrase  
Familiarity breeds contempt  
That is what the Nazarenes show Jesus  
They are full of FBC

Familiarity Bred Contempt  
They are offended  
Even his family back in chapter 3 think that Jesus is out of his mind  
“Who does you think you are mate?”  
“You think you’re better than us – carpenter boy?”  
Even Jesus was amazed at their unbelief  
And Jesus couldn’t heal there not because he didn’t have the power to heal  
Jesus didn’t heal because Jesus responds to faith  
And he could not see much faith in his hometown

So why does Mark records this episode right next to Jairus and the bleeding woman  
I think it’s to contrast two different responses to Jesus  
And to put that question before us  
How will you respond?  
FBC or DDT

Australia as a nation at the moment is full of FBC  
A country with a Christian Heritage  
Whether that was in parliament or schools or hospitals  
But Australia is now in a post-Christian era  
“Yeah yeah, we know all that Christian stuff”  
“And look where it got us”  
“The Stolen Generation”  
“The Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse”  
“No trading on Sundays”  
“Anti-marriage equality”  
“I’m familiar with what Christianity gave us”  
“We have moved on from all that rubbish”  
Many Australians today have contempt towards Christianity  
And the sad thing is that most of the people who have contempt for Christianity  
Have never even heard much about Jesus

But it’s not just the nation as a whole is it?  
It’s also individuals like me or maybe you  
People you who think we are familiar with all this  
I grew up going to church my whole childhood and teenage years  
I went to an Anglican School for four years  
I attended Sunday school and heard many Bible stories

But by the time I got to uni  
I couldn't have told you that much about Jesus  
Who he is and what he did

When I got to uni I decided to sort out what I believed  
I joined three different Christian clubs during O-Week  
One of the groups was the Christian Union  
And I met this guy Dave Walter  
Dave patiently opened the gospel of Mark with me  
And we read it together  
Week by week he answered my questions  
And I got to know Jesus  
A couple of years earlier  
When my parents separated  
I felt that God was distant  
And Dave showed me from the Bible  
That God never abandoned me  
How could he when He sent Jesus to find me  
If Dave hadn't helped me  
I could well have ended up with FBC  
Instead Dave led me to DDT in Jesus  
And this changed the course of my life  
And I will be forever grateful to Dave and to God

Maybe you've grown up in a Christian family  
Attended church  
Maybe you attended a Catholic school  
Or you went to Mass or Chapel Services  
Or maybe you have visited the temple or mosque with your family  
You're familiar with it, you think

But do you actually know Jesus?  
Do you know his teaching?  
Do you know what he did on the cross and why?  
Do you know what he claimed about himself?  
You cannot make a decision about Christianity  
Without actually knowing Jesus

Don't make the same mistake as Nazareth  
It would be a real shame  
To reject Jesus without knowing him  
You owe it to yourself to get to know the real Jesus

I want to look at the DDT that Jesus responds to  
The faith of Jairus and the bleeding woman is not perfect  
Jairus believed that Jesus could heal  
But there were limits to his faith  
I'm sure Jairus didn't believe that Jesus could raise the dead

And the bleeding woman's faith is a bit transactional isn't it  
Her faith didn't have any room for relating to Jesus

It's trust mixed with a bit of superstition  
"If I just touch his clothes"  
And yet Jesus responds to both of their imperfect DDT

Now what this says to you  
Is that your faith in Jesus doesn't need to be perfect  
It might well be a work-in-progress  
Jesus knows this  
And what he does in this passage  
Is he shows us that he is worthy of our faith  
However big or small it is  
He is stronger than we can imagine  
So Jesus says to Jairus "Only believe"

In verse 34 Jesus said to the woman  
Your faith has saved you  
This means more than healing  
Jesus has come to save us completely  
Not just a healthy body  
But a right relationship with the living God  
That word save takes on a new meaning when we see what Jesus did on the cross  
Jesus died on the cross to save us  
To pay the price of our sin against God  
To save us from judgement and eternal death  
We were completely and utterly helpless  
We cannot pay that price ourselves  
We need a Saviour to bring us back to God  
All of us do  
So that he can call us daughters and sons

Faith is not just about asking for physical healing  
Or a share house or car park  
Or to pass an exam  
Faith that means that you can be forgiven of your sin against God  
Faith means that Jesus can bring you real hope after you die

On another occasion of complete helplessness  
Jesus was speaking to a woman called Martha  
Martha was a sister in a family he dearly loved  
Martha was at a place of utter helplessness because her brother Lazarus had just died  
And she like Jairus believed that Jesus could have prevented that death

And Jesus gave her these words in John chapter 11

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. <sup>26</sup> Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

And then he brought her beloved brother back to life  
But what if Jesus can raise not only Jairus' daughter and Lazarus  
But what if he can raise from the dead

Everyone who believes in him?  
And what if he can deliver us from our greatest fears not just in this life  
But in the life to come?  
What do we need to fear if we no longer need to fear sin and death?  
Do you need to fear O-week and not making friends?  
College life and peer pressure?  
Choosing the wrong course?  
Interest rates and inflation?  
Housing affordability?  
Singleness?  
Divorce?  
Infertility?  
Stage 4 Cancer?

Jesus strong and gentle  
Knows our helplessness  
And he can deliver more than we can ask for or imagine  
And all He wants from you is desperate dependent trust.  
Do you believe this?