

5. How might desperate circumstances lead you to deeper intimacy with God?

6. How can you combat cynicism in your life and see the wonder of God, his grace, and the Gospel?

7. Looking back over this week's sermon and study, what one thing is most important for you to remember and apply?

Missional Application

God calls us to proclaim Jesus as the Savior who takes away our shame and makes us pure and holy in God's sight.

Christ Connection

The woman who pushed her way into the crowd around Jesus was ceremonially unclean, thereby rendering all who touched her unclean. When she touched Jesus, however, her illness was healed. Jesus' purity was more powerful than her impurity. In this story, we see a glimpse of what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. Through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, our shame is removed, our guilt is absolved, and God begins his work of making us pure and holy like his Son.

Jesus the Miracle-worker (Part 4)

"5 Ways Desperate Circumstances Can Grow Our Faith"

Mark 5:21-43

5 Ways Desperate Circumstances Can Grow Our Faith

Desperate circumstances can grow our faith when it...

1. Moves us to _____.

It's the circumstances the woman and Jairus find themselves in that propel them to act in faith.

"Faith is embodied in action. Faith is something that can be seen, like the men digging through a roof to bring their friend to Jesus. It kneels, begs, and reaches out to touch." (David Garland)

2. Rips off the _____, exposing our wounds.

"Both the respected synagogue ruler and the marginal woman seep with an open wound of human need. Money, power, influence, networks and family status—all of these resources may help us cover our need for a while, but eventually life will rip off our Band-Aids and expose our wounds." (Matt Woodley)

3. Leads us to _____ with Christ.

4. Overcomes our _____.

Cynicism is a faith-killer.

Paul Miller on Cynicism, Faith, and Prayer (The Praying Life)

- Jesus calls us to childlike faith; cynicism is the opposite of childlike faith.

Both the child and the cynic walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The cynic focuses on the darkness; the child focuses on the Shepherd.

- Faith is hard; cynicism is easy.
- Cynics claim to see through things but end up seeing nothing.

“Cynics imagine they are disinterested observers on a quest for authenticity. They assume they are humble because they offer nothing. In fact, they feel deeply superior because they think they see through everything.

“C. S. Lewis pointed out that if you see through everything, you eventually see nothing: ‘You cannot go on “seeing through” things for ever. The whole point of seeing through something is to see something through it. ...If you see through everything, then everything is transparent. But a wholly transparent world is an invisible world. To “see through” all things is the same as not to see.”

“Lewis said that what was required was a restoration of the innocent eye, the eye that can see with wonder.”

5. Prompts greater _____ on God.

You and I always live in desperate circumstances.

It's only by God's common grace to humanity that we didn't die on the spot in Genesis 3. It's only by God's grace in Christ that our relationship with him isn't severed by the sins we already committed today.

Family Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Jesus pointed out that it was the woman's faith that healed her?
2. Both the woman and Jairus were desperate. How can being desperate turn us away from God or grow our faith?
3. When Jesus raises the daughter, what do you learn about God's heart?

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. When have you found yourself desperate and in need of God for a miracle?
3. Read Mark 5:21-43. How does faith move us to take action?
4. What are some of the Band-Aids that keep you from noticing your desperate circumstances?