

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: June 3rd 2018

Speaker: Sally Heath

Title: Meet Jesus: Jairus meets Jesus

Introduction: Mostly Jesus' teaching and miracles were taking place around Lake Galilee in the north of Israel. Jesus had grown up in Nazareth, but when he started as an itinerant preacher he seems to have made his base in Capernaum, where his first four disciples came from (the fishermen brothers Andrew & Peter, James and John). At the beginning of the passage we are told that Jesus had been on the other side of the Lake and had travelled back, and many people assume the meeting between Jesus and Jairus took place in Capernaum.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Reflect:

The Love of a Father

In Jewish understanding a girl becomes an adult at the age of 12. In the culture of Jesus' day this little girl (who Luke tells us was also an only child) may have already been preparing for her marriage and all her adult responsibilities.

- What are our hopes and dreams for the children and young people who are part of TBC, or who are connected to us either personally or in our wider community?

Jairus, as one of the synagogue rulers would have been an important and highly respected member of the community.

- What do we learn from Mark 3:1-6 as to the attitude of Jewish religious leaders like Jairus? (It is possible that this took place in the synagogue where Jairus was a leader.)
- What might have changed Jairus' mind?
- What does Jesus ask of Jairus before he agrees to go to his house? How does this tie up with the teaching in the parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-24)?
- What might this say to us about God's Father love and mercy for us and for others who aren't Christians but who cry out to God? (see also Matthew 7:9-11)

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Meeting Jesus Makes a Difference

- Imagine you were Jairus and had just been told that your daughter had died but Jesus's response was: 'Don't be afraid; just believe.' How would you feel?
- How might saying this to someone in such a situation be helpful or unhelpful?
- While it may not be true that 'In your presence our problems disappear' many Christians will be able to tell of occasions when they have experienced what St Paul calls 'the peace of God, which transcends all understanding' (Philippians 4:7). Share occasions when this has been true (or not true) for you.
- We know that Jesus loved children - see for example Mark 10:13-16. Think of a child or young person who is precious to you or who you know or you see in church on Sundays and lift them up in your imagination into the loving arms of Jesus and pray for them. Perhaps you could pray regularly for that child or young person - even if they don't face a fatal illness their lives are very challenging.
- Jairus not only brought the needs of his daughter to Jesus; he brought Jesus to his daughter. What practical ways can parents do this? You may find Deuteronomy 6:6-9 helpful.
- Think of ways in which we can support parents in TBC in helping them to introduce their children and young people to Jesus? If you are a parent, how can others help you and support you?
- This account raises the question of why this little girl was raised from the dead but other little girls (and other people) aren't even healed, when we pray for them. Someone once said to me, when I was suffering a bereavement, that she thought my faith would make it all OK. How would you have answered them? (Romans 8:35, 37-39 may be helpful.)

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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