

# Approaching Jesus

Mark 5:21 – 43

## I. Intro

- A. **Question:** If Jesus walking in, how would you react? Run? Walk up and fall at His feet? Be afraid, or approach with confidence knowing He would immediately welcome you?
- B. Those who came to see Jesus at His birth:
- i. shepherds – in their fields, watching their flocks, angel appears – *unto you is born this day in the city of David [Bethlehem] a Savior, who is Christ the Lord ... a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths ... lying in a manger; Luke 2:16 (ESV)*  
16 And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.
  - ii. Wise men – several months after Christ’s birth; traveled great distance, seen unusual star in east; ask Herod, *Where is he who has been born King of the Jews?*; asking his chief priests and scribes, tells wise men in Bethlehem ... *Go and search ... when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him* (Herod planning to kill him); **Matthew 2:10-11 (ESV)**  
10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.  
11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.
- C. Question ask today – how are we to approach Jesus? Look at 2 individuals and their different approaches
- D. **READ Mark 5:21 – 24**
- E. Jesus gets delayed; **SUMMARIZE Luke 5:25 – 34**
- F. In passage desperate approach, hopeless approach, believing approach

## II. Desperate Approach

- A. Approach of Jairus, young daughter dying; ruler of synagogue – important man in Jewish community, violently opposed to Jesus, very public in expressing the opposition
- B. 4 attitudes seen in desperation
- i. **1** – selfless attitude; Jairus running the risk of hostility from his peers; could easily be stripped of his high position in synagogue; could’ve sent someone else or been more secretive; warned by his own family not to go; sense Jairus’ desperation
    - a) Didn’t matter – urgency of the situation, Jairus wasn’t thinking about any of that – only his daughter’s survival; in Matthew, translated Jairus’ daughter already died

- b) **Luke 9:23 (ESV)**  
23 [*Jesus said*], “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.
  - ii. **2 – humble attitude; REFER v. 22, 23; let go of pride, prejudice and opposition of family and friends, forget about his position in synagogue and status in community**
    - a) **James 4:10 (ESV)**  
10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
  - iii. **3 – pleading attitude; do and say anything if circumstances are desperate enough; implored – begged; fell down at Jesus’ feet – literally, begging on hands and knees**
    - a) **Psalm 91:15 (ESV)**  
15 When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.
  - iv. **4 – expectant attitude; Jesus was Jairus’ only hope; he had expectation that if Jesus would just come and lay hands on his daughter she would be well and live**
    - a) **Matthew 21:22 (ESV): Jesus says**  
22 And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”
- C. Jairus’ approaching Jesus was bold because came from place of desperation, and Jesus heard his plea and answered his request**

### III. Hopeless Approach

- A. **Woman (not mentioned by name), serious bleeding disease had for 12 years**
- B. **Her attempts for healing: seen “many” physicians – no success; spent all money she had – no success; instead of getting better she was getting worse**
- C. **Everything she had put some hope in for cure failed; only one hope left – Jesus**
- D. **4 attitudes in hopeless approach:**
  - i. **1 – last resort attitude; by law woman considered unclean – ostracized from community/family, shunned by church, going to be divorced by her husband; she was truly left all alone in her world; Jesus became her last resort**
    - a) **Matthew 11:28 (ESV): Jesus says ...**  
28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
  - ii. **2 – embarrassed, unworthy attitude; didn’t boldly confront Jesus and say, *Heal me*; secretly worked her way through crowd thinking, *If I touch even His garments*; shame, embarrassment, feeling of**

**unworthiness, sought healing but didn't want anyone to notice, but Jesus did**

a) **Psalm 34:18 (ESV)**

18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

iii. **3** – expectant attitude; in way more faith than Jairus – touch Jesus' garment, but Jairus thought Jesus had to physically come and touch his daughter – had to be in the same place where his daughter was for healing to take place; woman had more faith, trust in power of Jesus

a) **Mark 9:23 (ESV)**

23 [*Jesus' words*] “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”

iv. **4** – confessing attitude; woman approached Jesus in secret, but not enough to believe in secret; woman had to be brought to point of confessing her faith, belief in Christ

a) **Matthew 10:32 (ESV): Jesus' words**

32 So everyone who *confesses* me before men, I also will *confess* before my Father who is in heaven,

E. **Woman dealing with serious disease for 12 years approaches Jesus secretly, not wanting to be noticed, has no other hope left but Jesus, and He felt her hopelessness and her body is healed**

#### IV. **Believing Approach**

A. **READ Mark 5:35 – 43**

B. **Jesus knows our hearts, He knows when a person truly believes**

C. **Believing approach involves one simple attitude; not a fearful, despairing attitude; not a whining, “woe is me” attitude; not a scornful, angry, skeptical attitude**

i. **REFER v. 35, 38, 39 & 40**

D. **1** – Obedient attitude; attitude that believes and follows Jesus no matter the cost; Jesus says to Jairus (v. 36) *Do not fear, only believe*

E. **Through believing and trusting, and following Jesus in obedience, Jairus' daughter is brought from death to life**

F. **READ Mark 11:22 – 24**

#### V. **Close**

A. **Don't know each person's situation or circumstance, but the Lord does**

B. **Question: Do you need to come to Jesus? Approach Him in desperation, approach Him out of hopelessness, approach Him in faith – what's most important is that you approach Him**

- C. He will receive you, hear your plea, He will answer according to His will and pleasure
- D. **Illustration:** Sheryl and cancer