

Fingers of Faith

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2,3 Thrive, Stir, Missions Seminar, Mothers Day Succulent - Andrew P
- B. Slide4 Baby Dedications single moms (2nd) - Elvira/Elveera Pate (Brandon, Christy)
 - 1. Mayra Medina (Mayra Isabella, Benjamin). Brooke Main (Wynnie, Lyvie)
 - 2. Julie Payne (Annie). Vanessa Rodarte (Gabriel, Roman, Kyle)
 - 3. Marjorie Saylor (Adora). Ivy Zamora (Desmond) (Emmitt, Julius)
 - 4. *Single parents arrive at single parenthood through a variety of circumstances and God has a plan for them all.* I also believe **we** as their church family have the ability to radically change the lives of single parents and should be involved in that pursuit. (watching kids Fri nights/Hayley)
- C. Slide5a,b Aspire Women's Conf: this Friday. get tickets today in info booth. Show Video.
- D. Slide6 Mother's Day - read article
 - 1. Mom's a great life-motto, J.Sidlow Baxter mom wrote this on the flyleaf of his bible, on 16th b-day, *Whatever He/Jesus says to do, do it!*

II. Slide7 Intro: Fingers of Faith

- A. The story of 2 people: Jairus *Journey of Faith*. A woman's *Fingers of Faith*. *Funeral that Failed*
 - 1. One an *important* synagogue officer, the other an *anonymous* nobody.
 - 2. Both were about to lose something: **Jairus** was about to lose a daughter who had given him 12 years of *happiness*. **The woman** was about to lose an affliction that had brought her 12 years of *sorrow*.
- B. Matthew shortens the story, Mark⁽⁵⁾ & Luke⁽⁸⁾ give longer & different angles of the story.

III. Slide8 HIS JOURNEY OF FAITH (18,19) A FAITH THAT PREVAILED

- A. Synagogue history? In 586 bc the Jews were taken captives by the Babylonians. Since they couldn't worship at the temple they raised up *synagogues* in most every town.
- B. It wasn't easy for Jairus to come to Jesus.
 - 1. He definitely would have gotten flack from both the **religious leaders** & the other **synagogue leaders**.

2. His position meant he was in charge of the services. Choosing one to pray, another to read the Scripture selections.
 3. He was most likely present in the synagogue when the man with the withered hand was healed.
 4. We also note sorrow even comes to good religious families.
 5. Yet Jairus came to Jesus, worship Him, prayed to Him, & trusted Him.
- C. (19) So Jesus arose & followed him - Watch, as Jesus leads Jairus on a journey of faith.
1. Slide9 Jairus means whom God enlightens. [watch Jesus hand on the dimmer switch of Jairus heart]
- D. You can almost hear Jairus saying, “my 7th grader is dying, my only daughter, but the healer had agreed to come with me...its all good...well, except for the crowds/traffic.”
1. A multitude thronged him...& now an interruption, a delay. This can't be good.
 - a) Should I remind Him I was 1st?...maybe not...just don't let her die God.
 2. Have you had a tragedy in your life like this, where one of your kids were seriously hurt, or deathly sick?
 - a) I bet you would've done anything to save/heal your child?
 - b) I bet you've verbalized to the Lord, Me Lord, but not my child.
 - (1) Then you understand fully that parental love.
 - (2) As tough as a man you can find, he will melt like butter if his child is sick. (Stoic Russian officer asking Jeff & I for prayer for his daughter)
- E. Jairus, an officer of the synagogue, was no doubt wealthy...but now comes one completely bankrupt.

IV. Slide10 HER FINGERS OF FAITH (20-22)

A. HER DAILY PRESSURES

1. Slide11 Physically – most likely a chronic menstrual disorder. Which is a difficult condition for any woman, of any era.¹
2. Emotionally – It would have sapped her strength day after day.

¹ Max Lucado, Book of Mark, pg.47.

3. **Mentally** - It was apparently **incurable**. She was at the end of her ropes.
 4. **Sexually** – she could not touch her **husband** according to Levitical law.
 5. **Maternally** – she could not have **children**.
 6. **Domestically** – anything she touched was considered unclean. No **washing** dishes, no **sweeping** floors.
 7. **Financially** – She spent **all** that she had (26). [an *incurable* disease]
 - a) **She had spent all her livelihood on physicians & could not be healed by any.** Lk.8:43
 8. **Societally** – She **defiled** everyone she touched. According to Lev.15:25-27 she was **unclean**.
 9. **Spiritually** – This barred her from **worship** in the Temple.
- B. **Slide12a** This is a great picture of what **sin** does for you.
1. *It is a terrible disease. It is terminal. It is a tremendous drain. It takes away our life blood. Sin never gives, only takes. It never adds life, only diminishes it.*
 2. **Slide12b Sin** always takes you farther then you want to go; It will keep you longer then you want to stay; It will cost you more than you want to spend.
 3. **Slide12c Or** as **Samson** learned at the end of his life, *Sin will find you, blind you, bind you, & grind you.* Jdg16:21 **So the Philistines captured him & gouged out his eyes (blind) he was bound with bronze chains (bind) & forced to grind grain in the prison (grind).**
- C. **Slide13a HER POSSIBLE EXCUSES**
- D. She **could have** used a number of excuses to stay away from Jesus. [Listen, u might be using these]
1. **I'm not important enough** to ask Jesus for help.
 2. **Jesus is busy** going with this Jairus man, I won't bother him.
 3. **Nothing else I've tried has worked, why try again?**
 4. **It wasn't right coming** to Him as **last resort**.
 - a) How many have put off a decision for Christ because, *it wouldn't be fair to come now...when all else has failed.* **Wait, He loves that! :)**
 - (1) **Slide13b Desperation** is commonly the prelude to **Grace**.
 5. She laid all these aside & **came by faith to Jesus**.
- E. **Slide13c HER FAITH:** It was weak, timid, & perhaps even *superstitious*?

- F. (21) **If only I touch his clothes** - *maybe* she got this from other times when...*as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him.* Mark 3:10
- G. (22) **Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up** Mk 5:29 – Not just the surface, but its very fountain/*source*.
1. **Same w/sin in our life** - Jesus doesn't only deal w/the **particular sins** in our life, **but** most importantly **the very fountain head** of **sin...our heart**.
- H. **Who touched my clothes?** Mk 5:30 - **Why did He ask that?**
1. Here was a **faith-touch** that reached Him, **right through His clothes**.
 2. You've heard of *Dine-n-Dash*, this was a failed attempt at *Heal-n-Dash*.
 - a) Oh, what a contact that was made between a **believing sufferer & an Almighty Savior**. When her dilemma met His desire, *a miracle occurred*.
- I. **Slide13d 3 reasons Jesus asked, Who touched my clothes?** (other accounts)
1. **For her sake** – He wanted to be more than a **healer** to her. He wanted to be her **Savior & friend**.
 - a) He wanted **her** to *look into His face, feel His tenderness, & hear His loving words*.
 - b) She became the *only woman* to receive the endearing title of *daughter* from his lips
 2. **For those around her sake** – He helped her to **share her testimony & thus glorify** the Lord.
 3. **For Jairus' sake** – He needed all the encouragement he could get.
 - a) I wonder, how many attend church every week & yet fail to touch the hem of Jesus garment by faith...for spiritual blessing/wholeness/healing?
- J. **Note**, **both** found their answers **at the feet of Jesus**. Mk.5:22,33
- K. It is one thing to **throng** Him & quite another to **trust** Him.
1. Augustine said, **Flesh presses, faith touches**.
- L. This woman represents **all of humanity**. We are all ill. We have spent all our resources. **We've tried all of the worlds remedies**. We must not fear our faith is *too weak, too immature, nor too ignorant*. **We must fear only 1 thing...** that we **let Him pass** w/o **reaching out & touching** Him.

V. Slide14 **A FUNERAL THAT FAILED (23-26)**

- A. Jairus was doubtless becoming more anxious & disturbed w/every passing moment that ticked by.
1. This must have felt like being in the back of an ambulance, & then slowing down because of heavy traffic...then, complete grid lock.
- B. Slide15a I bet those words came...those he so greatly feared, *The teacher doesn't care about your daughter. If he did he would have hurried.*
1. 1st he had to trust for a **healing...now...a resurrection?**
 - a) Jarius' journey/**faith walk** continues...*straight uphill.*
 - b) **But** now *the stage was set* for Jesus to perform His 1st resurrection.
- C. (23) Jesus loved breaking up funeral services :)
1. **Flute players & crowd wailers** - *the poorest families were expected to at least provide 2 flute players & 1 wailing women.*
 2. **Jesus has the death music halted. The mourners muted...**I guess the **proverb** is true, that's used for **the lady** who raps up the last 20 minutes of the opera w/her song...*"It aint over until the fat lady sings."*
 3. Slide15b When **the crowd** is put out...**Jesus** comes in.
- D. Slide16a It was *the Lord's Words* that made all the difference:
1. **A Word of Faith** – Do not be afraid, only believe (Mk5:36, Lk8:50)
 2. **A Word of Hope** – The girl is not dead, but sleeping (24)
 - a) In the eyes of Jesus, **death** was nothing but *sleep* even though it was longer than ordinary sleep. (*wasn't a misdiagnosis*) *Viewing her death as temporary* (as all believers death).
 3. **A Word of Love & Power** – **Talitha cumi/Little girl, I say to you arise** (Mk5:41)
 - a) *Unbelief* laughs at God's word but **faith** lays hold of it & experiences the power of God
- E. **Talitha Cumi** – Damsel, arise. [very tender words]
1. Possibly the very words her mother would use to awaken her in the morning.
 2. **What a beautiful blend of human tenderness & divine power.**
- F. **Lessons learned:**
- G. God **doesn't** always rescue His people from danger or heal every affliction...**but** it does mean that *He holds the ultimate authority & that we need never fear.*

1. In this case he had **compassion on the parents** & brought her back from heaven. Maybe in your case Jesus had **compassion on your child** instead, & didn't make her come back to this world?

H. **No situation** in your life is so desperate that Jesus **cannot** work.

1. **Disease, delays, & even death** are under His control.
2. No matter how **depressing** your situation may appear... **do not be afraid; only believe.**

I. You might say, *It's too hot in my incubator*. Jesus says, **No, it's the perfect temp.**
 You might say, *my environment is out of control*. Jesus says, **I have all under control.**
 You might say, *spiritual growth & development **hurts***. Jesus says, **Yes it does.**

1. **Reach out today & touch Jesus. Reach out & trust Jesus.**

J. **SlideX** Francis de Sales (aka, the Gentleman Saint), *When you are **sick**, offer to Christ all your **pains**, your **suffering** and your **listlessness**. Ask Him to unite them to those He bore for you. Obey your **doctor**, take your **medicine**, your **food** and your **remedies** for love of God remembering how he tasted gall for love of mankind. Desire to **recover** in order to serve Him, **but** be prepared to **suffer on** in obedience to His will, **and** prepare to **die** when He calls you, that you may be with Him and praise His name forever.*

K. **End:**

L. **SlideX Mothers Day Succulent** - Tables in back. We have 1 for each **mother** in attendance

M. **How is a mother like a succulent?** 2 ways

1. They are grown as **an ornamental plant**, because of their **striking appearance**.
2. And like the **Aloe Vera plant's leaf** is broken open & **goodness & healing is poured out**, **so often** a mother's heart is broken open for her children all for of their children's goodness & healing...no matter their age. **Thank you moms.**