

Incubated Faith

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Paul & Suzanne Luciani and Their Missions Care Team.
1. (Paul) Slide#2 Vision. Slide#3 Ministry. Slide#4 Barcelona.
 2. (Ted) Core Group-no slide. Slide#5 Connected-Mailchimp. Slide#6 Goal: Almost there

II. Slide#7 **Intro:**

- A. *Incubate* = to keep a premature or unwell baby inside a controlled environment in order to keep it alive and assist its growth and development.
- B. *Faith* = complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
1. This portion of Mark is about Jesus **incubating faith** in 2 individual lives, assisting their **growth & development**.
 2. Jesus, while on earth was on a long walk to the cross (it's always before Him). Along the way were **people. Hurting people**. On the way to the cross Jesus stopped to help people.
 - a) Brief update on Albania/Kosovo. Both ministries helping **hurting** people.
 - b) Slide#8 Located in Korce Albania, the Kenedi Foundation is a humanitarian organization working in conjunction with the Korce Evangelical Church. Marleen, a Belgian registered nurse, is the executive director.
 - c) Slide#9 Aerobics at the Elderly in-home care facility. [Larry & I stayed]
 - d) Slide#10 A couple guys I was cutting up w/in the back.
 - e) Slide#11 Outreach to old men in town. Slide#12
 - f) Slide#13 Kosovo. Jeff/Rachel Harry, Pastoring. Lycia @ Bondsteel, worship. [Ooreem]
 - g) Slide#14 Met a family. Mom/dad deaf. Lecky oldest son praying. Edisona, testimony.
 - h) Slide#15 My fav pic
- C. Slide#16 This week we climb back into the boat with Jesus & head back to the other side of Galilee, where we started with Him...in Capernaum.

III. Slide#17 **DESPERATE FAITH (21-24)**

- A. Last week we had one crowd that was relieved to see Jesus leave. This next group was **waiting** for Him to **welcome** Him.
1. Especially 2 people: **Jairus** & an **anonymous woman**.
 - a) Slide#18a 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. **Slide#18b** 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.
- C. (24) **So Jesus went with him** - **Watch**, as Jesus leads Jairus on a walk of faith.
1. Jairus means **whom God enlightens**. [watch the dimmer switch slowly rise]
- 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!**
 2. **Slide#18c** Should I remind Him, *I was 1st?* Maybe not. *Just don't let her die God.*
 3. **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. **Slide#18d** Jairus, an officer of the synagogue, was no doubt **wealthy**...but now comes one completely **bankrupt**.

IV. **Slide#19 FINGERS OF FAITH (25-34)**

A. **Slide#20a HER PRESSURES**

1. **Physically** – most likely a **chronic menstrual disorder**. Which is a difficult condition for any woman of any era.¹
2. **Slide#20b Emotionally** – It would have **sapped her strength** day after day.
3. **Slide#20c Mentally** - It was apparently **incurable**. She was at the end of her ropes.
4. **Slide#20d Sexually** – she could not touch her **husband** according to Levitical law.
5. **Slide#20e Maternally** – she could not have **children**.
6. **Slide#20f Domestically** – anything she touched was considered unclean. No **washing** dishes, no **sweeping** floors.
7. **Slide#20g Financially** – She spent **all** that she had(26).

¹ Max Lucado, Book of Mark, pg.47.

- a) Dr. Luke seems to protect his profession by stating in his account **she had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any**, Lk.8:43 [i.e. an **incurable** disease]
8. **Slide#20h Societally** – She **defiled** everyone she touched.
- a) According to Lev.15:25-27 she was **unclean**.
9. **Slide#20i Spiritually** – This barred her from **worship** in the Temple.
- B. **Slide#21** 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. **Sin** always takes you **farther** than you want to go; It will keep you **longer** than you want to stay; It will cost you **more than** you want to spend.
 3. **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 and gouged out his eyes(blind)... he was bound with bronze chains(bind) & forced to grind grain in the prison(grind)**]
- C. **Slide#22a 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. **Slide#22b** He's busy going with this Jairus man, I won't bother him.
 3. **Slide#22c** Nothing else I've tried has worked, why try again?
 4. **Slide#22d** 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 fare to come now... when all else has failed."* – **Wait**, He loves that!
 - b) **Slide#22e Desperation** is commonly the prelude to **Grace!**
- E. She laid all these aside & came by faith to Jesus!
- F. **Slide#23a HER FAITH:** It was weak, timid, & perhaps even superstitious.
- G. (28) **If only I touch his clothes** -
1. Maybe from 3:10 **For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him**.
- H. **Slide#23b (29) Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up** – 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...in our heart!**
- I. **Slide#24 (30-33) Who touched my clothes? - Why does he ask this?**
1. Here was a **faith-touch** that reached Him, **right through His clothes**.

2. You've heard of *Dine-n-Dash*, well 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 dedication, *a miracle occurred*.

J. 3 reasons Jesus asked *Who touched my clothes?*

1. *Slide#24a 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.*
[She'd never have heard vs.34]
 - b) She became the only woman to receive the endearing title of *daughter* from his lips!
2. *Slide#24b For those around her sake* – He helped her to **share her testimony & thus glorify** the Lord.
3. *Slide#24c 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?

K. (33) Note, *both* found their answers *at the feet of Jesus*. (vs.22,33)

L. (34) It is one thing to **throng** Him, & quite another to **trust** Him!

1. Augustine said, “**Flesh presses, faith touches!**”

M. *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. *Slide#25 JOURNEY OF FAITH (35-43)*

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. (35) Then those words came...those he so greatly feared, *The teacher doesn't care about your daughter. If he did he would have hurried!*

1. *Slide#26 Remember the old cube camera flashes?* - This must have been like one of those going off in his face. *But then* a quick reversal like in wrestling! (36)
2. **1st he had to trust for a healing...now a resurrection!**
 - a) Jairus' **faith walk** continues...*straight uphill*.
 - b) Now the stage was set for Jesus to perform His 1st resurrection.

C. (36) *Jesus heard* – or more accurately *ignored* (or refuses to hear).

D. *Slide#27a It was the Lord's Words that made all the difference:*

1. **A Word of Faith** – *Go on believing* (36)
2. *Slide#27b A Word of Hope* – *The child is not dead, but sleeping* (39)

3. **Slide#27c A Word of Love & Power – Little girl, I say to you arise (41)**
 - a) **Unbelief** laughs at God's word, **but faith** lays hold of it & experiences the power of God.
 - b) That's where we find strength & encouragement in **daily bible reading**, where He encourages us w/scriptures like these.
- E. (41) **Took the child by her hand** – Jesus touching a dead body?
 1. We notice Jesus wasn't defiled by **either** of the ladies.
 2. And **you** will not defile **my Lord** if you bring Him **all your sin**.
 3. **This is the glory of Grace** - Instead of contaminating Christ by her touch, power went out of Him & cured her.
- F. **Slide#28,29 Talitha Cumi** – Damsel, arise. [very tender words]
 1. Possibly the very words her mother would say to her to awaken her in the morning.
 2. Maybe not the typical words used to awaken a Jr. Higher today. [or maybe it should be]
 3. **Here's a beautiful blend of human tenderness & divine power**.
 4. **Also note** the 1st thing she saw was Jesus face, **then** her parents, **then** 3 enraptured apostles.
 - a) This is a great *proto-resurrection* for all believers. [Jesus face, & the rest of the church]
- G. She not only came back to life **but** also was healed of her sickness, as we see she was able to **walk(42) & eat(43)**.
- H. **Something should be given her to eat** – Note, **divine miracles** never replace **common sense human care**.
- I. **Lessons learned:**
- J. 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?
- K. **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!"**
- L. 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**.
- M. **Reach out today & touch Jesus**. - Reach out & **trust Jesus**.