Incubated Faith

I. Slide#1 Announce:
   A. Paul & Suzanne Luciani and Their Missions Care Team.

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. Leeky 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 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. 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, you 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) Jarius’ 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.