

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

AMBULANCE

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Healing the sick and raising the dead (Mark 5: 21-43)

Healing is a central theme in Mark's account of the ministry of Jesus. Accounts of healing begin in chapters one and two with a man with an unclean spirit, Peter's mother-in-law, a leper, and a paralysed man. Now two healings are presented within one narrative. The woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages was healed by touching Jesus' cloak. Then the most fundamental of healings takes place as Jesus takes Jairus' daughter by her hand and she is restored to life.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *ambulance*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Mark 5: 22-24; for reflection throughout the week)

Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came
and, when he saw Jesus,
fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly,
'My little daughter is at the point of death.
Come and lay your hands on her,
so that she may be made well, and live.'
So Jesus went with him.

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you brought health to the sick
and hope to the suffering.
Bless those who bring healing
in our world,
that they may work to praise your name;
now and always.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mark 5: 21-43

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Mark 5: 21-43)

Begin exploring Mark's accounts of the healing of the woman and the restoration of Jairus' daughter by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- What connections do you see between the two accounts?
- What do these narratives say about physical touch?
- What were the social implications of the woman's illness?
- Why did Jesus order them to keep quiet about the event?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore how Matthew and Luke adapt Mark's narrative.

- Matthew 9: 18-26
- Luke 8: 41-56

Explore the healing touch of Jesus in Mark's Gospel.

- Mark 1: 29
- Mark 1: 41
- Mark 3: 10
- Mark 6:5

Explore the significance of the hemorrhages in the Old Testament.

- Leviticus 15: 25-28

Proper 8 (Year B) Sunday 27 June 2021

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Mark's account of the healing of the woman and the restoration of Jairus' daughter by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Jairus' daughter
- Healing touch in Mark's Gospel
- Images of classic ambulances

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Mark's presentation of Jesus as healer is *ambulance*:

- What has been your experience of sickness and healing?
- What is your experience of ambulances?
- Has touch been important to you in healing?

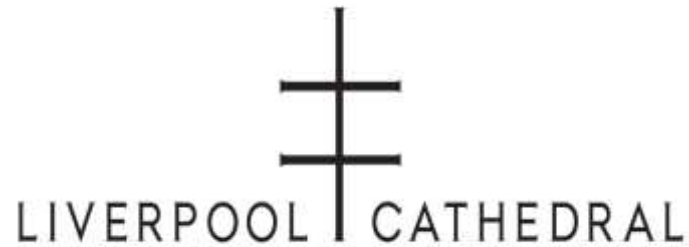
What have you learned about healing?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Mark's account of Jesus the healer.

- Create a collage of images of ambulances.
- Create a mural about healing.
- Make a poster on Jesus the healer.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Jesus the healer.

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Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



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