

SERMON FOR JUNE 27, 2021

TEXT: MARK 5: 21-43

THEME: WHEN YOU ARE AT THE END OF YOUR ROPE

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe.

In the name of Jesus:

You know the feeling, the feeling of exasperation and the feeling of hopelessness. The feeling that you are at the end of your rope. You have done all that you can do, and there is really nothing left for you to do, and seemingly nowhere to turn.

It is a feeling that you have had if you are a parent, in a home filled with screaming kids, you have asked them to be quiet, in fact you have told them to pipe down, but they are still wound up. You are fed up. Angry. And then you let your emotions get the best of you. You are at the end of your rope.

Maybe it is a situation where you have had this physical malady, and you have gone from doctor to doctor, trying to find the answer, yet there isn't one coming. Who now do you turn to? Where do you go when you have reached a dead end?

If you have ever had a loved one sick and near death, you also know the feeling, all of the treatments have been tried, and now death awaits.

We have all had the feeling, haven't we, we have all been there and done that, situations that we find ourselves in where we are at the end of our rope, where hope is fading and there is seemingly nowhere to turn. The single parent trying to make ends meet on one source of income, or the elderly person who has a string of doctors appointments to keep, there are times in life that we feel run down and run over. At the end of our rope.

In our Gospel lesson for today there are people that Jesus meets who know the feeling, they are at the end of their rope. There are three people to be exact, a little girl, her dad, and an unrelated woman. The little girl is sick and near death, her dad has taken her to doctor on doctor to find a cure, and when all of that fizzles he desperately tries to get to Jesus in time for he has heard that Jesus has the power to cure people. He falls down at Jesus' feet begging pleading for mercy. But once his pride and joy dies, he is now without a daughter and without hope. And then there is this woman, who has a blood disorder. Things were so bad for her that the Bible says that she suffered much at the hand of many doctors, twelve years in fact. The same amount of time on earth that this little girl lived on earth. She also had heard about Jesus, and was willing to try anything. All three of these people mentioned are desperate, without hope, and at the end of their rope.

Like I have said, when you are at the end of your rope, there is nothing to hang onto. And that is what they felt like, all until they heard about and then met Jesus. And when they found themselves at the end of their rope, they reached out to Jesus, and their lives were literally changed.

For that woman who suffered at the hands of many a doctor, she reached out and touched the threads of Jesus' garment, and she was healed. For that dad who was desperate for his daughter's well being, he fell at Jesus' feet and asked for mercy. And for the little girl? She heard the Word of God and came back to life. They found the help that they needed in Jesus. And Jesus welcomed their faith.

These people, when at the end of their rope, clung to Jesus in faith. That is what faith is, looking to Jesus, clinging to Him, and never letting go. That is why Jesus says to the woman: "Daughter, your faith has made you well." The same held true for Jarius, the dad. He heard about Jesus and fell at His feet begging for mercy. He had faith, he believed that Jesus wanted to save both he and his daughter. And He discovered that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.

That is the business that Jesus is in, dear friends, He is in the business of saving people, people sorry for their sins, people desperate for help, people who have nowhere to turn, people who are without hope, people who are

seemingly at the end of their rope. But as we discover today, you really are never at the end of your rope, because Jesus is always there. For Jesus is there to forgive you all of your sins. He lived, He died, He rose again for you. You can indeed depart in peace, your sins are forgiven. Jesus is there to be your ever present Help in time of trouble. He promises healing, if not now, then in the future on the Last Day when all things will be restored. And when you are walking through the valley of the shadow of death, Jesus is there, for He has conquered death and the grave for He is really the Resurrection and the Life.

So, no matter who you are, and no matter what situation you find yourself in, you are never really at the end of your rope when you have Jesus. So continue to come to church to hear His promises, to receive the forgiveness of all of your sins, continue to pray to Him for He loves to hear you pray and He loves to answer your prayers. Come to Him in faith, hang on to Him with confidence, that He loves you, that He is coming to help, in ways that you can never imagine.

For when you feel as if you are at the end of your rope, Jesus has you right where He wants you. Trust in Him, for His grace is sufficient for all that you need.

To His glory.

Amen