

Introduction: Pg. \_\_\_\_\_

### Luke 24:1-6a

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” (Luke 24:5-6)

We’ve come to consider and celebrate the biggest, most transformational event in world history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. His enemies put him to death on Friday, but the grave quickly found out it was too weak to keep him.

When Jesus rose and walked outta that empty tomb, he forever raised the banner over heaven and earth: You were **MADE TO LIVE**.

### **“Made to Live”**

#### **Mark 5:21-43**

What do I mean when I say we are MADE TO LIVE? What is LIFE?

- I’m talking about overtime buzzer-beaters...
- ... A really good meal with friends...
- ...The laughter of playing children...
- ...A hard and satisfying day’s work...
- ...Living without fear of a broken bone, a virus or cancer...
- ...Spring flowers & FREEDOM to enjoy God’s good world (herd immunity please come)...

I’m talking about, most of all, knowing and being known, serving and being served, celebrating and being celebrating, loving and being loved - NOT JUST BY the people around you - as great as that may be - but most of all...

BY GOD HIMSELF!

Jesus said: **“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” - Jesus, in John 10:10**

My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.” (NLT)

Jesus said it. He meant it. We’ll see it in the account of Jesus’ life in Mark 5:21-43.

### **Mark 5:21-43 (text displayed)**

#### STORY

- The story launches with great emotional tension. A great crowd gathers around Jesus, including a man named Jairus who falls at his feet and begs him saying (in verse 23): “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.**” Don’t miss that phrase.
- Put yourself in Jairus’ shoes. You’ve just dialed 911. The ambulance speeds to the hospital with your only child [as Luke 8 tells us], and their vitals are not good. To make matters worse, you hit a traffic jam.

And in the midst of the packed crowd, verse 25 tells us of a woman carrying great physical and emotional pain. Mark describes her plight with several descriptive phrases.

- She “had a discharge of blood FOR TWELVE YEARS.”
  - This woman had a health issue only women would understand, a bleeding disorder plagued her for TWELVE YEARS!
  - If we’re honest, most of us are annoyed after 12 hours of sickness. 12 days means we’ve got every person we know praying for us, but 12 years!?
- This women had visited urgent care, Winchester Hospital, MGH, Beth-Israel, Brigham & Women’s, essential oils, you name it, but Mark the doctors’ remedies only complicated her condition!
- She was out of medical and financial options, for “she spent all she had...”
- “...and was no better...”
- “...but rather grew worse.”

The poor woman is portrayed as “beyond human help.”

- But verse 27 provides the shift. “She had heard the reports about Jesus...[power to heal,” so she does whatever it takes to get to Jesus, believing that if she can just touch his clothes, she will be healed, and that is exactly what happens!
- Instantaneous healing by simply touching Jesus clothes.

What happens next is WILD! Verse 30. JESUS, no doubt moving at the urgent pace of Jairus, STOPS.

Can you imagine what Jairus is thinking? “Uh... Jesus... We’re not talking about a failed health screening for the sniffles. MY daughter is dying!” Jesus, the Great Physician, appears guilty of malpractice. (Keller)

But Jesus knew his power had touched someone, so he asked: Who touched me?”

His completely clueless disciples, say what we would have said: “What are you talking about? Everyone is touching you!”

As while Jesus is looking, the woman is trembling. She falls at his feet and tells him everything.

Why was she afraid? 1) At a human level, she was about to be exposed. In Jewish culture, anyone considered ceremonially unclean was not permitted to be in the midst of a crowd. 2) But at a deeper level, this is a healthy fear, the kind the Bible describes as “awe” & “amazement!” She is completely overwhelmed by what just happened!

And Jesus looks at her: “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.” Can you see the smile on his face? Can you feel the joy in his soul?

- “Daughter,” a term of familial affection and acceptance.
- Then he affirmed before those who would denounce her: “Your faith has made you well.”
- Then sends her in “peace,” covering her shame and restoring her dignity!

WOW! HOW CAN YOU NOT LOVE JESUS?!

BUT.... The elation of verse 34 meets the gut-wrenching sorrow of verse 35. As Jesus speaks words of life to the woman, people arrive from Jairus’ house: “She didn’t make it.”

Jairus’ heart falls through his feet, but Jesus, full of vision and compassion, leans over and whispers: “Do not fear, only believe.”

Verses 37-40

By the time they get to Jairus' house, professional mourners were already wailing. These were people paid to help express the intensity of a family's grief and love for the one they lost.

Can you believe: Jesus has the audacity to roll up on the scene and say: "Why are you weeping? The child is sleeping!"

The first 5 words of verse 40 are predictable and yet astounding: "And they laughed at him." People laughed at the Son of God.

When Jesus says she is asleep, he's communicating two ideas: #1) "Sleep" was a euphemism for "death," but #2) Jesus is also saying, this death, like all deaths, IS TEMPORARY. Why? Good made us to LIVE and LIVE FOREVER.

That's why Jesus moves into the little girl's room with Peter, James, John and her parents.

The miracle is recorded with remarkable simplicity in verses 41-42. "Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say you, arise." AND IMMEDIATELY the girl GOT UP and BEGAN WALKING (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement."

All Jesus needs is a touch and a word. This story screams: Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus is the Son of God! "I AM the resurrection and the LIFE."

Here's what I want you to hear today...

**The Point: Everyone who believes receives life through Jesus.**

I want to pull out three words for your personal consideration.

**Everyone who believes receives LIFE through Jesus.**

### THEOLOGY

- Here's something I want everyone to understand. God is NOT OKAY with suffering, and he is NOT OKAY with death!
- Someone once said: "God hates death with the fury of a thousand suns."
- Yes, God hates death, but he really, really, LOVES LIFE.

Think about the beginning, middle and end of the story of God's world.

- In the beginning, God made us to live forever, but tragically death entered our world as a just consequence of our sin, as Romans 3:23 tells us: "The wages of sin is death..."
- In the end, we will live forever with him or separated from him. As my grandfather taught me: "Death is just a comma, in the LONG story of eternity."
- But what about the middle. JESUS came to BRING US LIFE. John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish (die) but have ETERNAL LIFE."

Think about what it meant for these two daughters.

- For the woman...
  - Healing replaced suffering.
  - Honor replaced shame.
- For the little girl (and her family)...
  - Jesus brought joy in the place of sorrow.
  - Jesus brought life in the place of death.

It can mean the same for us! Joy now. Joy forever. Peace now. Peace forever. Life now. Life forever!

T: Everything we long for comes to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus. But you say, "Pastor Tanner, how can I get it?" BELIEVE.

### **Everyone who BELIEVES receives life through Jesus.**

- Jairus came in faith, trusting Jesus could heal his daughter.
- The woman thought, "If I can just touch his clothes," I will be made well." And Jesus said, "What a picture of faith!")
- When people came from Jairus' house to tell them his daughter died, what did Jesus say in verse 36? "Do not fear, only believe."

Listen, it is not enough to simply believe facts about Jesus. We see two components of true faith in this story: humility & trust.

1. Humility: We have to see and admit our need.
  - Most of us know we need God, but in our pride, won't admit it!
  - "I'm good. I'm all set. I got it." Really?
  - Faith cries out: "God, I need you. I need you to forgive me and give me LIFE."
2. Trust: We have to trust Jesus can meet our need.
  - Faith takes action. Faith reaches out for Jesus' touch. Faith falls at his feet.
  - Faith falls at his feet and says, "I'm depending on you. I'm counting on you. I'm placing my hope in you."

And the power of faith is astonishing.

- Faith moves the heart of God. Jairus comes in faith. What does Jesus do? He MOVES to bring healing! But...
- Faith also stops God in his tracks! Your faith *today*, can stop God in his tracks. Jesus is still stopping for THE ONE, to look into your eyes and say: "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Son, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

T: Don't doubt for a second that this promise includes YOU. Why?

### **EVERYONE who believes receives life through Jesus.**

Just consider the contrast between Jairus and the woman...

First, we have Jairus.

- He's a male.
- [He's sits atop the social ladder, a leader in his community. His relational capital is off the charts.
- Jairus was most likely on the upper end of the socioeconomic scale.
- He was not just a faithful worshiper, but ran the local synogage.

Then, we meet the woman.

- She's female.
- She was no leader, but a social outcast, living "on the lower rungs of society."
- She has nothing.
- This woman's condition "would have rendered her ceremonially unclean, limiting her participation in Israel's religious life."

We also, of course, have Jairus' twelve year old daughter. Not highly valued in the eyes of society. Just a kid beyond hope.

EVERYONE in ANY condition...

- Male or Female.
- Young or Old.
- Rich or Poor.
- Respected or Rejected.

Now, I've never been accused of being the smartest person in Boston, but let's think about it... If Jesus GIVES LIFE to the young and old, rich and poor, respected and rejected, then he's offering life to everyone in between. You're covered. You're included!

No matter your background, no matter your spiritual journey, no matter how your past: Jesus open his arms and says, "Come home."

The love of Jesus Christ knows no limits! Jesus' willingly stepped over Jewish legal codes and social norms, in order to touch and heal these two women. There's nothing he won't do. That includes death by crucifixion.

Romans 5:8 says, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

T: Jesus is reaching out to you. Will you reach out to him by faith?

*Conclusion:*

Jesus alone has the authority to bring healing in our sickness, life in our death.

**"The true light [Jesus], which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. . . . He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:9-13)**

Have you believed? Have you received? Let me ask you today.

**What is Your Next Step with Jesus?**

- **Are you ready to commit your life to follow Jesus?**
- **Do you want to explore more about Jesus & Christianity?**

This is life's most important decision! Not your school choice, career path, where you live, who you marry (all very important, but none compare to this:) what do you believe about Jesus?

Do you hear the voice of Jesus saying: "I made you to live. I came to give you life! *Talitha cumi*. Arise!!"??

Don't wait. Don't listen to the voice saying: "Take care of that later." Life is too short not to live it for and with Jesus. Eternity is too long to be separated from God by our sin in a place called hell.

Some of you today are saying: "I'm ready to start a real, life-changing journey with Jesus Christ *today*. Pastor Tanner, I want to make the story of Jesus personal, knowing he died on the cross and rose from the dead FOR ME.

You can do that today. You can receive the gift of LIFE by faith.

If that's you (whether you are here today or participating online), pray to God a simple prayer.

1) Admit your need. "God, I need you in my life. Forgive me for my sin, forgive me for turning away from you."

2) Trust in Jesus. "Jesus, I receive the gift of life through your life, death and resurrection. I commit my life to follow you."

Can we celebrate everyone who just made that decision?!!

Let us know. EVERYONE - go to the APP...

**"Connect Card" on the APP**  
or [www.rhc.church/cc](http://www.rhc.church/cc)

**Let us know!**

\*Prayer... Music Team Comes Out. Lead through a response...