

Trinity 4 - 27 June 2021

Mark 5:21-end

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

²¹ When Jesus had crossed again in the boat^[b] to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ 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.' ²⁴ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵ Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶ She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸ for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' ²⁹ Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' ³¹ And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' ³² He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

³⁵ 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?' ³⁶ But overhearing^[g] what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' ³⁷ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

³⁸ When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' ⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³ He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Sermon. Ministerial Leadership - Revd David Treharne

What a privilege it is to be gathered here today on the occasion of Nicki's first Eucharist. What a journey the last 5 or 6 years have been!!! I will never forget having a vision of Nicki having been ordained whilst I was mowing the Vicarage lawn... just one moment of many which led to yesterday's ordination. Yesterday was a very special day for the Parishes of Tidenham, St Briavels and Hewelsfield and the church of God as a whole, and of course Nicki's family and friends as Nicki was priested in our Cathedral in Gloucester. We have a new priest... and a very good one at that! Nicki, I am very excited for your ministry and what God wants to do and will do in and through you.

Nicki, as you begin this new phase of ministry I want to share a few things from today's Gospel about how you might undertake this new ministry.

Undertaking leadership responsibilities within the church is a great joy and privilege as we see individual lives, households and communities touched, changed and transformed by the love of God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, but Christian leadership also brings great challenges and pressures.

The Gospel says that large crowds gathered around Jesus and that they pressed in on him. Just look at all the demands and pressures on Jesus as he ministers. In this little passage alone look at what is pressing in on him!!!

Many different people clambering with their difference voices and needs pressing in on him

- Long standing illness and suffering and grief and worry pressing in on him
- Pleading. Disappointment and desperation. Unbelief and commotion. Weeping and wailing pressing in on him.
- Ridicule pressing in on him
- And even death presses in on him.

Nicki, one thing I can promise you as you minister, particularly because you have a compassionate heart and a burning desire to serve, is that things will press in on you! And power will go out of you as people come with the things that are pressing in on them.

There is a lot of need out there and in here. More than you can meet and deal with. You'll need compassion and resilience in abundance to deal with what you encounter.

But more than that you'll need Jesus' wisdom and discernment in how to handle those pressures and navigate through them. Jesus didn't just randomly react to the needs of the people, he exercised great discernment in what he did, when he did it and with whom he did ministry. Voices were demanding his presence in two places at once. Need screamed at him to move faster. Concern with what was going on wanted to dictate his schedule and his every action.

You'll need to exercise discernment when needs and demands press upon you. You will need to make tough decisions which may not always be popular. We want you to make decisions that are not necessarily what we want, but things that we need for our own wellbeing, the growth of the church and the furtherance of God's mission.

We see Jesus choosing Peter, James and John to work with him. We know you can't do ministry all on your own, so we want you to work with others, lay and ordained, in the church and the community... but wisely discern who you can work well with. Please help us each to find our part to play in God's mission and ministry. Encourage us to respond to God's call in our lives; challenge us where necessary and give us a shove when we need it.

The gospel says that the crowds were pressing in on Jesus, but he felt the touch of one person in particular... an intentional powerful touch from the suffering woman. Nicki, we want you to help us to intentionally reach out for what is holy and good, so we might touch the divine; and help us learn how to be aware, how to be still, how to pray and, and like the little family grieving help us to receive the Jesus's touch in our lives. Bring us the Word of God and the Sacraments and an awareness of God's presence so that we can touch Jesus and Jesus can touch us and give us life and healing, joy and peace and wholeness. In Jesus, heaven has come down to earth and earth is raised to heaven. We want heaven to touch our lives here on earth, and our lives on earth to touch heaven. We want to see lives changes and transformed by the power of God.

In the gospel we see the desperation of the women who had been bleeding for years and we see the desperation of grieving parents. In their desperation they go to Jesus. We want you to hear the desperation of us and our communities and we ask you to point us to Jesus and his life giving words for our lives.

- Point to Jesus... to his promises, his power and his presence.

<u>We SAY</u>	<u>GOD SAYS</u>	<u>BIBLE VERSES</u>
We say: "It's impossible"	God says: All things are possible	(Luke 18:27)
We say: "I'm too tired"	God says: I will give you rest	(Matthew 11:28-30)
We say: "Nobody really loves me"	God says: I love you	(John 3:1 6 & John 3:34)
We say: "I can't go on"	God says: My grace is sufficient	(II Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)
We say: "I can't figure things out"	God says: I will direct your steps	(Proverbs 3:5- 6)
We say: "I can't do it"	God says: You can do all things	(Philippians 4:13)
We say: "I'm not able"	God says: I am able	(II Corinthians 9:8)
We say: "It's not worth it"	God says: It will be worth it	(Roman 8:28)
We say: "I can't forgive myself"	God says: I Forgive you	(I John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
We say: "I can't manage"	God says: I will supply all your needs	(Philippians 4:19)
We say: "I'm afraid"	God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear	(II Timothy 1:7)
We say: "I'm always worried and	God says: Cast all your cares on ME	(I Peter 5:7)

frustrated"		
We say: "I'm not smart enough"	God says: I give you wisdom	(1 Corinthians 1:30)
We say: "I feel all alone"	God says: I will never leave you or forsake you	(Hebrews 13:5)

We read about perseverance and faith in the reading. Nicki, we want you to inspire us in our faith, and faith sharing day to day, however small our faith is; we want you to encourage us to persevere in our faith, and seeking after Jesus especially when things are pressing in on us and we are in desperate need.

The Church/God is asking a lot of you isn't it?! I was at a conference during the week where we discussed the dangers of having a false strength and putting unrealistic expectations on ourselves and each other. We all need to remember that you are not the Saviour of the world... and nor am I... Jesus is! Follow the example of Jesus in exercising discernment and ministry, but also remember that you are not Jesus!

Accept your human limitations, whilst also trusting in God's power, mercy and grace. You are human and not perfect. You can only be you in this endeavour God has called you to.

You know that mistakes can and will be made as we seek to serve the Lord. The disciples constantly made mistakes... the Gospels provide plenty of examples! You, I, we will make mistakes. Be gentle and kind to yourself... be gentle and kind with me as I make mistakes... be gentle and kind with God's people as we make them. People of God, let us be gentle and kind when Nicki makes them.

In moving onwards and forwards in life and ministry it is inevitable that mistakes will happen and things will not happen exactly how we might like them to happen. The church is no exception - take these Church Notices for example...

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water."
- The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."
- Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- Next Thursday there will be auditions for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
- Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

As you strive purposefully forward in God's strength and power the important thing is to learn and grow from any mistakes, blunders or imperfections... not live in bondage to those mistakes and let them have a hold on you. Live in the knowledge that God loves you and has called you to be you, he is at work in you, over you and above you, and that you are a part of an imperfect community that loves you.

Finally, I began by saying the crowds were pressing in on Jesus. Nicki, you need to press in on Jesus too. You need to reach out with perseverance and faith to touch the hem of his garment in all your needs, and let Jesus take you by the hand (vs 41) day by day.

Let him minister to you and speak to you words of life and hope, grace and power, life and love... so you can then get up each day and help us to live life together in the flow of God's love!