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JESUS: GOD'S POWER IN ACTION

Faith Conquers Fear

Bible School Lesson for April 27*

By Stan J. Percival

As a child, I was afraid of many things, such as the dark, heights, and my older sisters (especially when Mom and Dad left them as my baby-sitters). Someone once told me there is nothing to fear but fear itself. But that statement didn't make all of my fears go away. I found that overcoming my fears was always a process. They never went away without time and a great deal of prayer. I also learned the more faith I have in God, the less fear I have. Faith in God can remove fears if you truly believe that He is, indeed, God.

Faith Overcomes Fear

While Jesus was on His way to see about a sick child, a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years—whose condition continually worsened even though she was penniless from seeing so many doctors—sought out Jesus. Do you understand what she did? Her process was getting opinions from anyone she thought could heal her, and she spent all of her money doing so. She feared for her life and had nowhere to turn. She finally came to Jesus and touched Him.

When you reach out to Jesus, you never leave empty-handed. The Bible tells us that she was healed immediately. If she had come to Jesus sooner, she would not have lived as long with her fear.

What a great example to help us understand the difference between faith and fear. Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" She came

and fell trembling at His feet. What healed her? The Bible says it was her faith. Then Jesus told her to go in peace and be free from her suffering. In other words, go and fear no more. That is what happens when you place your faith in Jesus. You may come with fear in your heart, but you will leave with peace. When you are down to nothing, God is up to something. She came with fear, and she left with faith!

Unstoppable Faith

Jesus continued His trip to see a sick child whose father, Jairus, was a synagogue ruler. Earlier, Jairus had fallen at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come and heal his sick daughter. He pleaded with Jesus because of the love he had for his daughter and because he feared for her life.

Just as Jesus healed the woman, some men interrupted to tell Jairus that his daughter was dead and he should no longer bother Jesus.

Why did these men tell Jesus not to come? Their fear overcame their faith. That is never a good place to live. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible. If they had had faith, they would have told Jesus still to come. Jesus continued to the house, even when no one else saw the need. We need to learn what they did not realize: we must allow Jesus to do what He wants to do. We must overcome our fears.

When Jesus arrived at the house, people were weeping and mourning. But Jesus saw life,

Home Daily Bible Readings

- April 21Mark 5:21-34
- April 22Mark 5:35-43
- April 23John 14:1-7
- April 24John 14:8-14
- April 25Hebrews 11:1-6
- April 26Matthew 17:14-20
- April 27Luke 17:1-6

not death. Jesus said simply, "She is not dead; she is sleeping."

Do you know what the crowd did? They laughed. With that, Jesus removed them from the house. When you laugh at Jesus, you are removed. Now that is something to fear!

Jesus took the mother and father and the chosen disciples into the house. For the parents, faith overcame the fear. The end result: they received their daughter back. Who is laughing now?

THE LESSON WRITER



Stan J. Percival is senior minister with Central Christian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. The Lincoln (Illinois) Christian College graduate has been involved in ministry since 1982 as a church planter, youth minister, and family minister. Stan and his wife, Janet, have two daughters, Amy and Amber.

Lesson text: Mark 5:21-43. Printed text: Mark 5:22-36, 41, 42. Memory text: Mark 5:36. *Lesson based on International Sunday School Lessons, ©2000 by the Lesson Committee.