

Session 4

Life Restored

A Reflection on Mark 5:21-43

By the Rev. Rod Clark

In the early chapters of Mark, we see Jesus performing his ministry in a variety of ways. At times he rebukes demons with a few simple words. He calms the wind and stormy seas with ease. Then, we see him at home, where performing acts of power is difficult and even impossible. Today's passage reveals a third way in which Jesus' ministry occurs.

Isn't it interesting that Jesus is a passive participant in the healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman? He did not choose to heal her; he did not intend for it to happen. In fact, he wasn't even sure who had taken the healing power from his body. When she comes forward from the crowd he tells her that she has healed herself, that her faith has made her well. This is profound! Jesus' healing ministry belongs to all of us.

I wonder how Jesus' words took on a new life in the woman as she went away from the encounter whole and healed. "What is this *faith* that made me well? Is it my belief that Jesus' power could be taken from him surreptitiously? Is it the fact that I gave up on the physicians who fleeced my wealth years ago? Or, is my *faith* the unending desperate attempts for miracles that I have been seeking for 12 long years, even though I was utterly hopeless?"

How we, as readers of the Gospel, answer these questions for ourselves and our own lives is important. Is my faith simply a position, a belief in Jesus as Messiah? Or is my faith the

unrelenting pursuit of wholeness in the midst of pain and doubt? Whats more, is my life of faith
the point at which my beliefs compel me to action?

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