**Follow – The Gospel of Mark - Wk 11 – Desperate People**

**Label Maker - Who do people say you are or known for? Wife, mom, husband, friend, funny, serious, hard-working, musical – labels can be good and hurtful… loser, unwanted, damaged, weak, sick – the labels,**

**Mark - Follower & disciple of Jesus writes the first or 4 accounts of Jesus life – Today, two stories of two desperate people – stories that are wrapped around each other…**

**Mark in the last two chapters us Jesus has the power over creations design, demons, diseases, and now death!!**

**Mark 4:21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, (just left the Gadarean man) a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet (He was an important person in the community – had power, privilege, prosperity - put his reputation on the line to go to Jesus) 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” 24 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him.**

**But a funny thing happened on the way to Jairus’**

**(Been an intense few days: confrontation w/ religious leaders, calmed a squall, cast out a demon, and chased out of town - now a man asks him to help his little girl – the crowd is grabbing at him…) 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. (You might agree - this is serious?) 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.**

* **Hemorrhaging for 12 yrs - guys can’t handle 5 days - 1 day**
* **Broke & alone, sick & weak – people kept their distance.**
* **A social outcast, not allowed in town- considered unclean.**
* **Most likely deeply depressed and desperate**

**2 people – one labeled important, another labeled unimportant.**

**She wore the labels of shame, worthless, guilt, rejected for 12 yrs**

**He wore the label of religious and entitled, assuming he has everything**

**27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” (Just a touch) 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. 30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” (Really? There are dozens pushing on you)**

**31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” (rhetorical question - I can see Jesus walking thru a crowd - all of a sudden, He feels power leaving him. He stops - Jairus says, “Come on! My daughter is dying!! Why are you talking to this nobody?) 32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.**

**Know this, God is concerned about every individual in every crowd**

**You might wonder, does God know I exist? 7 billion people…? Does He care about my life? When I step in my dogs’ pee in my socks? Have a bad day? When sick? When hurting? Know this - Jesus care.**

**There was a crowd, but at that moment - nobody was there but Jesus and this woman. He gave his attention to her.**

**What do you label people around you – the homeless guy – the grumpy guy - the weird kid at the end of the table – the smelly girl People tend to treat people by their labels. (Age, status, money...)**

**This woman was labeled “Unimportant – dirty – worthless” Yet Jesus stopped - for her. Jesus doesn’t love and see people in terms of importance or labels - like we often do.**

**33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. (humbled and still broken – she confesses as if she did something wrong – that was how people made her feel – years of feeling worthless) 34 He said to her, “Daughter, (everyone rejected her, he called her his daughter – loved one – the only time in the gospels he ever calls someone that) your faith has healed you. (we are going to come back to this) Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” (beautiful response - “Go in peace. Your suffering is over.")**

**Why did Jesus even stop? Why the big deal? He didn’t let her get lost in the crowd - I think He wanted her to hear something – to sense something – he did not just want to be her healer… He wanted to be her friend, father, and savior. To love on her.**

**On a lighter note - I can see them later playing – “Push somebody into Jesus and see if they get healed” game**

**Back to Jairus - But it was too late… but not really**

**35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” (it’s too late! Invasion of sorrow) 36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” (I’m never late - have faith…) 37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. (Peter and 2 bros – the 3) 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” 40 But they laughed at him. (Jesus knew what he was about to do… he is not worried. Jesus is never late!!) After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. (private group family and his close friends – the 3 to watch, learn and tell others – respectful of the family’s pain) 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). (same number of years the woman had the issue of blood) At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat. (Why not? To keep crowds down - when the crowds were not an issue, he told them to share it.)**

**2 labels – 2 miracles – 2 people - an older woman / a young girl**

**2 backgrounds – of influence and opportunity / broke and alone**

**2 twelves – 2 daughters. Both seemed hopeless and too late.**

**The Label Maker and Desperate People - What can we learn from this?**

**They both desperately sought-after Jesus**

**1. Sometimes desperate is a great place to be**

**12 yrs she spent all her money - traveled to find hoped - it only got worse. Then she heard of Jesus – Now her faith was in Jesus.**

**Desperately sick people get desperate, many pursue psychics, try holistic meds, travel world for cures, even witchcraft – hoping that it may be the answer... but where is your faith?**

**People who are desperate for Jesus - Realize Jesus is their only hope**

**Not a friend, relationship, spouse, another doctor, job, diff president, more money, not time, not will power, positive thoughts – only Jesus!**

**Want a different life? That party, relationship, job, move, drug bottle – is not the answer. What you’re left with is a trail of pain & regret - tears & mistakes - Sadly many turn to Jesus as last resort - but guess what – if that’s you, it’s not too late.**

**When you get desperate for God – like these two people**

**\*\*You don't care what others think**

**She got to the point where she was past the names she might be called - or the ridicule she might face - or the rejection she might get.**

* **Do you care too much about what others think?**

**\*\*You do whatever it takes to press through**

**She was determined - to get thru. The crowd and labels did not stop her! She was not sitting around waiting for something to come to her.**

* **How far will you go? Will you press through the crowd?**

**Diff types of people in this story:**

**The watchers (Those hanging out as Jesus went by)**

**The walkers (Those who just want to be apart of the crowd)**

**The wanters (They press in, w/ or w/out a crowd they want Jesus)**

* **Which one are you?**

**2. Sometimes you just need to wait**

**Whether it’s 12 years or a few hours of waiting desperation for Jairus**

**Sometimes God requires patience from us, sometimes He waits longer than we think is rational. Years or a lifetime. But Jesus is never late!!**

**3. Sometimes He allows temporary loss in order to show us His eternal purpose (Ecc 3:11; 2 Cor 4:17)**

**Jairus was told it was too late. But - Jesus is never late.**

**“Don’t he afraid, just believe” Don’t worry about what you hear, what you know, what you see, v. 40. Just trust Me!**”

**That loss of love, job, income, relationship – sometimes God will allow it – in order to show his purpose and His glory.**

**4. There is difference between reaching out to Jesus and putting our faith in Jesus**

**Jesus told the woman – “your faith has healed you” / told Jairus, “just believe”**

**Jesus was not commending their positive energy, vibe or confession.**

**Jesus calls us to have faith – but not a fuzzy feeling of faith – but specifically faith in HIM! God use doctors and science – but ultimately our faith is not in a vaccine but in the King!**

**Faith is not head Knowledge - We often think faith is a head thing – positive thoughts and attitude – but Faith is head & feet – heart & soul**

**Faith is not a force - Some teach it’s a cosmic law even God lives by…**

**Jairus and the women were not focused on a “force or law of faith”, abstract faith, or positive thinking - they were focused on Jesus.**

**Faith is being in Christ – trusting and stepping - an internal movement away from self onto a supernatural reliance on God.**

**It is not about the amount of faith you have, it is the object of the faith you have.**

**Airplane - flying often vs never – “nervous, praying, anxiety - Child says, “I told you I didn’t want to fly” Who will arrive first - me or the child? The one who has a lot faith in the plane or the one who has little faith – we arrive at the same time. The Point - all you have to do is get on board, if the plane is fit to fly it will arrive. Both measures of faith benefit. Difference is the condition of the flight. You’ll either stress during the journey or you will relax in faith! Where is the object of your faith?**

**Jesus is inviting us to reach out, step out and rest in Him!**

**She thought, “If I can just touch his clothing, I will be healed."**

**I don’t have faith like that… start with what you have…**

**5. Jesus does not show partiality**

**Jesus graciously met their respective needs and responded to their faith with equal love, power, and willingness to heal.**

**Job 34:19 – God “shows no partiality to princes and does not favor the rich over the poor, for they are all the work of his hands”**

**The Labels we have been given – are remade with Jesus!!**

**Jesus is a Label’s maker – he labels you**

**The New Labels Jesus gives to those who come to him in faith**

* **Loved - was not afraid of her – he had great compassion for her**

**Nothing gross about you to Jesus – no sin or sickness – no label or lingering failures. HIS LOVE IS PERFECT!**

* **Important**

**He stopped everything to speak to her – went out of his way for that little girl.**

**He is not too bust for you! You are important to Him!**

**He cares for you! He knows you! So much that he gave his life for you!**

* **Child**

**48 he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”**

**He gave her a new label – daughter (for the men – son)**

**I can picture Jesus holding her hand, looking in eyes, gently touches her face, “Daughter.” “Loved one, be at peace - your suffering is over."**

**I want you to know today that God passionately loves you – cares for you – and deeply wants you to know him**

**When my daughters were little - I'd come home – they would jump over chairs and run into me and tackle me - grab me… DADDY! I would drop everything – and hold them!**

**That’s the image I see of God for those who run to him, there’s no line… He has walked thru the door – desperately run to him, reach out in faith, trust in Him - He in turn will call you son, daughter I love you! Your suffering is over.**

**John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**