



no strings attached. Is our love like that?

July 1, 2018 Mk. 5: 21-43 & Wid. 1: 13-15; 2: 23-24

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#### ENTERING THE SCENE:

Have you ever wondered why Jesus asked who touched me in the middle of a pressing crowd? The disciples obviously didn't care, all they knew was they were on the cusp of a great opportunity if Jesus could heal the daughter of one of their rulers. People would have to sit up and take notice then, wouldn't they? But Jesus never uses a person's problem to advance his cause. He wants this woman to know that it was her faith, not some magic touch of his garment that healed her. Over and over again, Jesus will respond to someone's need and then free them to go and live their life. There are no strings attached to his love. The ruler and his household also protected when Jesus puts everyone out of the room. The ruler could have had his daughter restored to him, and his position not threatened by just telling others, that she was just asleep after all. He too is free then to just go and live his life. God's love seems to be free with

#### Mk. 5:21-43

21 And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, a great crowd gathered about him: and he was beside the sea. 22 Then came one of the **rulers** of the **synagogue**, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he **fell** at his **feet**. 23 And **besought** him, saying, My little **daughter** is at the point of **death**: Come and **lay** your **hands** on her, so that she may be **healed**; and she shall **live**. 24 And Jesus went with him; and a great crowd followed him, and **pressed** round him. 25 And there was a **woman** who had had a flow of blood for **twelve** years, 26 and had **spent** all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. 27 She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and **touched** his **garment**. 28 for she said, "If I touch even his **garments**, I shall be made **well**." 29 and immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was **healed** of her disease. 30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that **power** had gone forth from him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, "Who touched my **garments**?" 31 And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd **pressing** around you, and yet you say, 'Who **touched** me?'" 32 And he looked around to see who had done it. 33 but the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in **fear** and **trembling** and **fell** down before him, and told him the whole truth. 34 And 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, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your **daughter** is **dead**. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" 36 but ignoring what they said, Jesus said to the **ruler** of the **synagogue**, "Do not **fear**, only **believe**." 37 and he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. 38 when they came to the house of the **ruler** of the **synagogue**, he saw a **tumult**, and people **weeping** and **wailing** loudly. 39 And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a **tumult** and **weep**? The child is not **dead** but sleeping." 40 and they laughed at him. But 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 Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi"; which means. "Little girl, I say to you, arise." 42 and immediately the girl got up and walked; for she was **twelve** years old. And immediately they were overcome with **amazement**. 43 And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**DISCUSSION QUESTION:** The woman who was healed and the daughter that was restored to life both were the recipients of God's free gift of love. When was the last time you received such a free gift of love?

**PRAYER:** Loving God, Cyril Brooks says it well: There are so many different ways of being healed. The best way, and by far the commonest, is to be loved. To be loved by God, and to know it and live it, is to be healed indeed. The Good News first of all is that you and I are accepted and loved by God. From all eternity you and I have been in the mind of God. God's love for us is utterly reliable and has no conditions whatsoever." Let us all say; Amen.