

A woman in a purple robe and white headscarf is kneeling on the ground, reaching out with her right hand towards Jesus. Jesus is standing in the center, wearing a white robe with a sash. He is surrounded by a crowd of people, some of whom are also kneeling or reaching out. The scene is set in a dark, outdoor environment, possibly a street or a courtyard. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the woman and Jesus. The overall mood is one of hope and faith.

**Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter
(Mark 5:21-43)**



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A Great “Leveling” in a Just Society (Martin Luther King, Jr.)

- I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

--“I Have a Dream” speech (August 28, 1963)

--MLK, Jr. Day: 16 January 2023

--Speech contains references to Isaiah and Amos

Martin Luther King, Jr. “I Have a Dream”



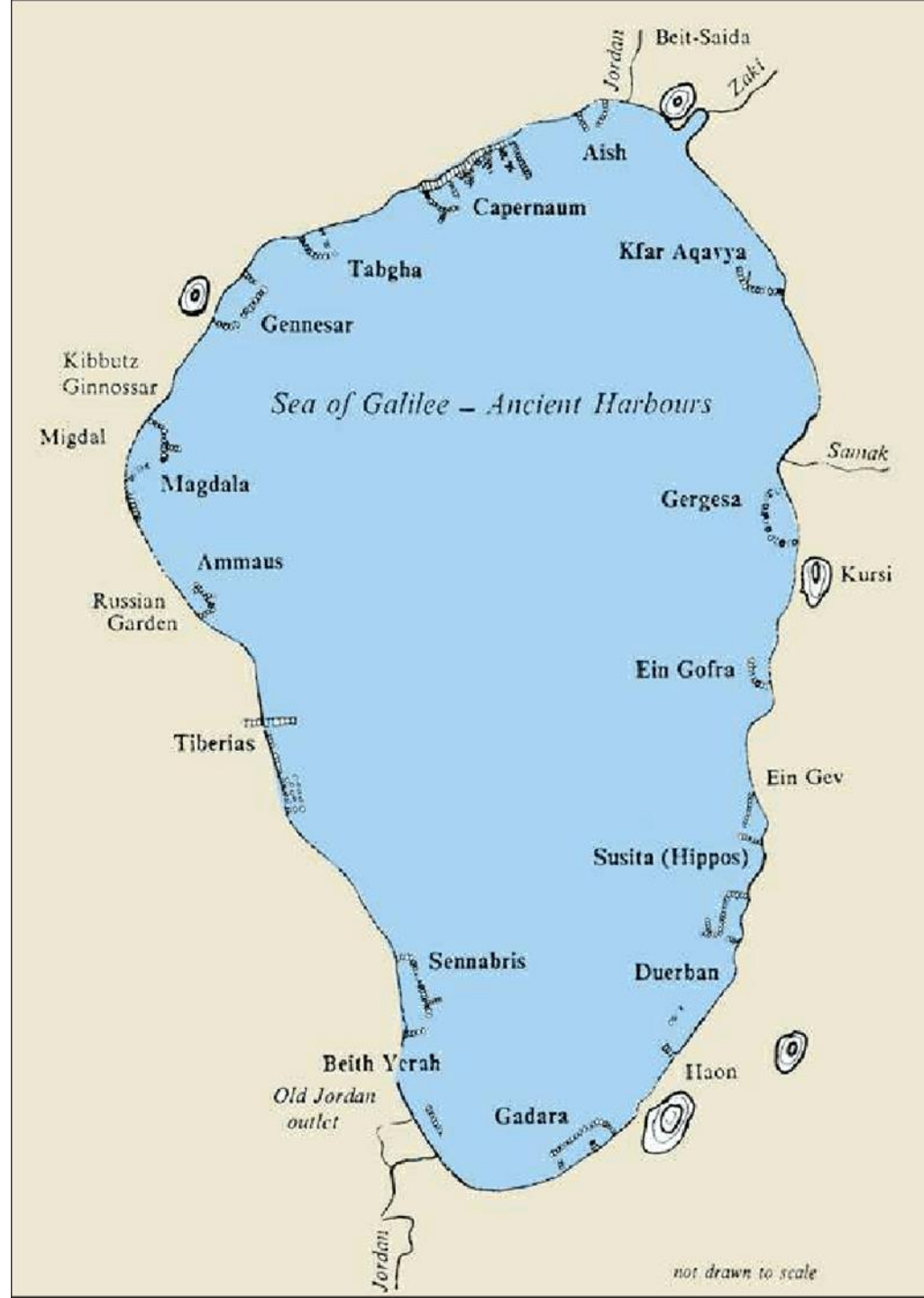
A Great “Leveling” in God’s Kingdom (Isaiah 40:3-5)

- ³ A voice cries:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

Definitions: “Framed narrative”

A literary form that contains an inner story within an outer story.

Ideally, the two stories should amplify each other through a shared theme.



Jairus Approaches Jesus (Mark 5:21-24a)

- ²¹ And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to 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 seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, “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 And he went with him.

Laura in the Hospital with ITP

- A bloody nose led to eight days in the hospital
- **“Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) is a type of platelet disorder. In ITP, your blood does not clot as it should, because you have a low platelet count. Platelets are tiny blood cells that are made in the bone marrow. When you are injured, platelets stick together to form a plug that seals your wound.”**

Twelve years of suffering (Mark 5:24b-26)

- And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.

Medical Connections

- “Hematology is the study of blood and blood disorders. Hematologists and hematopathologists are highly trained healthcare providers who specialize in diseases of the blood and blood components. These include blood and bone marrow cells.

--Johns Hopkins Medicine

- “The Bible is not specific about the woman's ailment, but based on the Greek wording it is generally thought to be menorrhagia: a heavy or prolonged menstrual bleeding often caused by issues such as uterine cysts” [e.g. Endometriosis]. (Bible Ref)
- However, the woman could have suffered from any number of blood disorders. Regardless of the specific malady, she would have been in pain and also weak/anemic from losing blood.

Incognito, a Woman Touches Jesus' Garments (Mark 5:27-29)

- 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 will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

Jesus Interacts with the Woman (Mark 5:30-34)

- ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out 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 happened 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.”

Spiritual as well as physical restoration (Leviticus 15:28b-30)

- she shall count for herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean. ²⁹ And on the eighth day she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons and bring them to the priest, to the entrance of the tent of meeting. ³⁰ And the priest shall use one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her before the LORD.

Jesus Leads Us All into Still Deeper Faith (Mark 5:35-40)

- 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 overhearing 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 They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? 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.

Faith surpasses “common sense”

“Harsh though they be, the words of the messengers . . . Express plain common sense. The ‘teacher’ might have been able to do something for his daughter while she still had some hold upon life. But now she is dead, what more is there to hope for?”

Jesus, however, has ‘overheard’ the blunt message. In the face of it he invites Jairus to go further with him on the journey of faith: ‘Do not fear; just keep on believing’”

--Brendan Byrne

A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel

Jesus Raises the Girl from the Dead (Mark 5:41-43)

- 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 began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

I. A Great “Leveling” in God’s Kingdom

A. MLK, Jr. “I Have a Dream” speech

(Isaiah 40:4)

B. All believers are placed on a level field before Christ

1. Jairus is brought low from high social status
2. The woman is raised up from social isolation
3. Peter, James, and John: an inner circle of disciples?

II. Desperation is a Catalyst for Faith

- A. Jairus: a parent will do anything to save their child
- B. The woman: out of options and money
- C. No place to go except to Jesus

III. When all hope is gone, faith goes deeper

- A. Hope for a specific and positive outcome
- B. Hope for a general but positive outcome
- C. Faith that God is in charge regardless of the outcome
(Daniel and his friends, Paul, martyrs)

Takeaway: Jesus's ministry is personal

- Jesus meets and travels with us on an individual basis
- The “aggregate” result is the building up of His Church
- ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Revelation 3:20)

Let Us Pray

