# MEDITATION 46

Mark 5: 21-24

21 When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around
him, and he was by the sea. 22 Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came
and, when he saw Jesus, fell at his feet 23 and pleaded with him repeatedly, "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 So Jesus went with him.

Why is Jesus by the sea? That way he can have some space between himself and the crowds with the sea in the background and a boat when he needs to take a break…

When have you needed to take a break?... When have you needed to get away as the noise, the need, the necessities, burdens and responsibilities of life have weighed you down?... Maybe you are in such a situation now... Or what may tomorrow bring?... We all need to take a break – from work, from a situation, from a responsibility that weighs us down on a regular basis even as it may also be a service of love and care… Maybe we need to take a break from a relationship just so we have enough distance to rebalance and get some perspective…

Jesus knows what he needs to recharge. And being recharged he is able to be present for particular persons… The fact that Jairus is named must mean he comes to play an important role in the early days of the church. First readers of the gospel account will have heard and maybe even known Jairus. And yet, think about what it took for Jairus to come to Jesus and fall at his feet. Jairus is a leader in his community and runs a synagogue, which is the central gathering and community space in any town or village. We've already encountered how the leaders of Israel were against Jesus and saw him as a threat. What would it have taken for Jairus to come to Jesus publicly and fall at his feet in a clear act of humility and submission in his need?

"My little daughter is at the point of death." Here it is - the need. And it is a serious one! What any of us who have children or grandchildren would do for them! Like Jairus, we, too, would fall on our hands and knees pleading for help and it wouldn't matter who we were or how far down we'd have to go to get the help…

But Jairus doesn't only go down on his hands and knees in humility and submission pleading before Jesus. Behind his need is also faith, faith that this peasant carpenter's son is also a remarkable healer, a healer who could make a huge difference in the fate of his child. "Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." Jairus not only gets his ego out of the way in his desperation. He is also trusting in what Jesus can do. He hasn't given up or given in to hopelessness and grief. He believes something better is possible.

What about you? Do you believe something better is possible for you or someone you care about deeply? What are you willing to believe is possible? What may be possible you cannot imagine outside the specific outcome you hope and pray for? How open is your faith, how imaginative?... We don't know how faith works and the invisible energies that compassionate praying can carry through and pass along… We don't know how such praying also works within us too... Past all the walls of resistance and doubt, Jairus comes to Jesus and Jesus is present to respond…

Are you ready to respond to a need before you? Have you gained enough distance, replenishment and rest to regroup and engage with compassionate and prayerful attentiveness?...

We will get to the conclusion of this story in the next few weeks, but for now, all we get is this: "So Jesus went with him." Just like that, in the middle of the gathering of people all around Jesus as he is teaching and engaging, he leaves everything and goes with Jairus. Isn't that something?...

Where are you being called to go at this time?... The needs are all around us. And our own needs must be met as well so that we can be present for the needs of another. What are we being called to be and do and where are we being called, like Jesus, to go?...

PRAYER: We come before you, O God, in our need… We need a break… We need to replenish… We need to rebalance and gain some fresh perspective… We need a fresh flow of faith in what's possible and what doors can open for us or someone we care about… We need healing to flow through us and our relationships, as we pray for another… We need, O God…

Visit us in our need… We are not too proud to ask, to plead, to seek, to hope even against hope…

For those of us not clear about what we need or confused about it all, grant us clarity and courage needed to see what we may not want to see…

For those of us afraid of what will be revealed about our need and where we may need to go requiring greater trust in what can be, give us hope in your providence for whatever it is we will need to get from here to there…

Thank you for walking beside us, being above us and flowing through us, O God… May we know, feel and trust in your working and walking with us… In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.