

Resources on the Sunday Readings – Trinity 4

Picture Reflection (p1), Bible Readings & Study Questions (p2-3)

See separate families' sheet.

Picture Reflection



Across barriers

Mark 5: 21-43 (reading overleaf)

- Spend a few minutes with this image...what is happening?
- Reflect on the barriers that exist in our lives, in society and in different countries of the world...
- What happens at those barriers? What feelings emerge at those barriers?
- Which of these barriers hinder help from others?
- Jesus broke taboos and conventions of his day in order to meet people and address their needs. How can we reach out to those who need our help today?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we worship you this morning as the one who removed the greatest barrier between God and us.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, enable us to tear down artificial and man-made barriers that stop us from living and loving in accordance with your will.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen

Mark 5: 21 – end

Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged 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.’ ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, ‘If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.’ ²⁹Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ ³¹And his disciples said to him, ‘You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, “Who touched me?”’ ³²He looked all round to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He 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, some people came from the leader’s house to say, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?’ ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, ‘Do not fear, only believe.’ ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, ‘Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.’ ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then 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. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha cum’, which means, ‘Little girl, get up!’ ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Bible Study

2 Corinthians 8.7-15

⁷ Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸ I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹ For you know the generous act^[c] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰ And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— ¹¹ now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹² For if the eagerness is there, the gift is

acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³ I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴ your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵ As it is written,

‘The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.’

1. Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to complete a charitable collection for the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem. He points out that this will create a balance across the wider Christian community, illustrating this with a reference to the story of the miraculous distribution of manna in the desert. Think about how you feel when you might not be the beneficiary of your generosity?
2. The Corinthians can ensure that there is a fairness between their abundance and others needs. Where do we see this fairness being acted out nowadays? Do we see it?
3. Paul’s most striking argument is based on the actions of Jesus. ‘Jesus was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor in order to make you rich’. What do you understand about how Jesus became poor?
4. What is the ultimate example of generosity?
5. How can we walk this path in our own lives?