

Lent Day 10  
Saturday February 20, 2016

Reading: Mark 5.21-24

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 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." So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him.

### **Reflection**

And now back to our regularly scheduled program... Remember when our TV shows were interrupted and then a broadcaster would say that as our show resumed? That's kind of what's happening here. Jesus has gone out of his usual territory and has now come back. What's more, if you go back in the narrative Jesus had been healing in the synagogue which led to his conflict with the Pharisees. Note also the crowd was there and he was figuring out how to separate himself from them.

Now Jesus comes back and once again we have the crowd and also a synagogue leader. I think what we see is two types of approaches to Jesus, what Kyle Idleman calls 'fans' and 'followers'. The crowd's of people are definitely fans. They are here to see the famous prophet and healer. Let's see the show! Like all fans they are fickle. When popularity turns, when the officials start to condemn they aren't invested they can walk away.

But, not so with this synagogue ruler; he's invested. He is a man of means and reputation in this community, but he casts his honour aside and shamefully falls to his knees and begs this itinerant preacher and healer. His daughter's life is on the line and it's more precious than everything else. He has a need and only Jesus can meet it so he's in – he's a follower!

It's easy for us to fall into the trap of being a fan. Show up for the show and see what all the fuss is about. We can even enjoy the high of the mob and the excitement at big events has a charge that can charge us. But, we miss our own need. Each of us, every human being, needs Jesus to heal them and make them whole and to have him continuing to heal and make whole. Because, God doesn't heal us against our will if we only stand on the perimeter as a fan we will never be healed. We have to recognize our deep need for healing and then cast aside everything else and fall to our knees and then get up and follow Jesus.

### **Prayer**

Oh Captain, our Captain, heal us and make us whole. Give us the power to embrace weakness and cast away our pride. Make followers out of us fans. Amen.