

**1. Read** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence.  
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**How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

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# Quick Connect

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## **Gospel Reading – Mark 5:21-43 – Roman Missal**

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea. One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying, “My daughter is at the point of death. Please, come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live.” He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him. There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years. She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had. Yet she was not helped but only grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.” Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who has touched my clothes?” But his disciples said to Jesus, “You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, “Who touched me?” And he looked around to see who had done it. The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.” While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official’s house arrived and said, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?” Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid; just have faith.” He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, “Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out. He took along the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was. He took the child by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded. He gave strict orders that no one should know this and said that she should be given something to eat.

## **Spiritual Reading** *From a homily by Pope Paul VI*

Not to preach the Gospel would be my undoing, for Christ himself sent me as his apostle and witness. The more remote, the more difficult the assignment, the more my love of God spurs me on. I am bound to pro-

claim that Jesus is Christ, the Son of the living God. Because of him we come to know the God we cannot see. He is the firstborn of all creation; in him all things find their being. Man's teacher and redeemer, he was born for us, died for us, and for us he rose from the dead. All things, all history converges in Christ. A man of sorrow and hope, he knows us and loves us. As our friend he stays by us throughout our lives; at the end of time he will come to be our judge; but we also know that he will be the complete fulfillment of our lives and our great happiness for all eternity. I can never cease to speak of Christ for he is our truth and our light; he is the way, the truth and the life. He is our bread, our source of living water who allays our hunger and satisfies our thirst. He is our shepherd, our leader, our ideal, our comforter and our brother. He is like us but more perfectly human, simple, poor, humble, and yet, while burdened with work, he is more patient. He spoke on our behalf; he worked miracles; and he founded a new kingdom: in it the poor are happy; peace is the foundation of a life in common; where the pure of heart and those who mourn are uplifted and comforted; the hungry find justice; sinners are forgiven; and all discover that they are brothers. The image I present to you is the image of Jesus Christ. As Christians you share his name; he has already made most of you his own. So once again I repeat his name to you Christians and I proclaim to all men: Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, the alpha and the omega, Lord of the new universe, the great hidden key to human history and the part we play in it. He is the mediator – the bridge, if you will – between heaven and earth. Above all he is the Son of man, more perfect than any man, being also the Son of God, eternal and infinite. He is the son of Mary his mother on earth, more blessed than any woman. She is also our mother in the spiritual communion of the mystical body. Remember: it is Jesus Christ I preach day in and day out. His name I would see echo and reecho for all time even to the end of the earth.

### **Prayer: Spoken and Unspoken - Lesson and Discussion**

*“...and pleaded earnestly with him”*

Many times we pray so that Jesus will grant what we ask. It is true as the catechism states that “to those who turn to him [Jesus] in faith, he grants what they ask.” Is this however the only reason to pray? Our prayer has to go deeper than curiosity for a miracle or physical need, it must unite us to Christ and bring about both physically and spiritual healing, as well as much need conversion. Both Jarius and the hemorrhaging woman, not only received what they asked for, but answered the invitation of Christ.

### **What was the invitation Christ extended to Jarius and the woman?**

To the woman Christ said, “Daughter, your faith has saved you. Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.” Jesus calls the woman daughter and invites her to a life of peace, peace which can only be found in faith. Christ said to Jarius, “Do not be afraid; just have faith.” Jesus invites Jarius to a life of Faith, which drives away any fear.

“The signs worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent him. They invite belief in him. To those who turn to him in faith, he grants what

they ask. So miracles strengthen faith in the One who does his Father's works; they bear witness that he is the Son of God. But his miracles can also be occasions for “offense”; they are not intended to satisfy people's curiosity or desire for magic. Despite his evident miracles some people reject Jesus; he is even accused of acting by the power of demons.”[1] Regardless of the healing or feeling that comes from the signs or miracles of Christ, the primary reason for the sign or miracle is to invite us to belief in him. If the sign or miracle only effects the physically then it is temporal and does not last. For the woman, suffering from hemorrhaging, as soon as her flow of blood was stopped, the flow of her faith began. The works of Christ are an invitation to us to begin the flow of faith.

**What is the difference between the pleading of Jarius and that of the hemorrhaging woman?** The pleading of Jarius is spoken in words, while the prayer of the woman is in silence, she reaches out. “Prayer to Jesus is answered by him already during his ministry, through signs that anticipate the power of his death and Resurrection: Jesus hears the prayer of faith, expressed in words (the leper, Jarius, the Canaanite woman, the good thief) or in silence (the bearers of the paralytic, the woman with a hemorrhage who touches his clothes, the tears and ointment of the sinful woman). The urgent request of the blind men, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David’ or ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ has been renewed in the traditional prayer to Jesus known as the *Jesus Prayer*: ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner!’ Healing infirmities or forgiving sins, Jesus always responds to a prayer offered in faith: ‘Your faith has made you well; go in peace.’” [2]

**How does Jarius' give us an example of Faith?** Saint Mark's Gospel says, “Jairus, came forward. Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded...” We can follow Jarius' example:

1. We draw close to Christ, we come forward.
2. We see Him.
3. We fall at His feet (humility)
4. We plead.

### **How does the hemorrhaging woman give us an example of Faith?**

Saint Mark's Gospel says, “approached in fear and trembling. She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth.” We can follow the woman's example:

1. We draw close to Christ, we approach
2. We have fear and trembling (awe)
3. We fall down before Jesus (humility)
4. We tell Jesus the whole truth

[1] Catechism of the Catholic Church; 548

[2] Catechism of the Catholic Church; 2616 -