

# RESOLVE

**Definition:** Choose to take action or make a change.

**Synonyms:** Determine, Decide, Choose

Since my weekly email goes out on Tuesdays, this devotion begins on Tuesdays and ends on Mondays.

Since it is the beginning of a New Year and the blog this week discussed resolutions, I thought we would continue the theme and look at some people in the Bible who **RESOLVED** to take a bold action and approach Jesus for healing.

## *DAY 1 - Tuesday*

### **Read Mark 5: 21-24 and 35-43**

There was a large crowd waiting on Jesus when he got out of the boat, but Jairus was desperate. He was **resolved** to seek healing for his daughter.

Jairus held the elected position of synagogue leader. His responsibilities included running the school, coordinating the people who participated in the worship services, and maintaining the building. He was an important man around town and probably had a relationship with the Pharisees. The Bible doesn't say, but I wonder if tracking down Jesus and asking for his help put his position in jeopardy? After all, the leaders in the Jewish community were not particularly fond of Jesus and His teachings.

But Jairus' position also gave him a front row seat when it came to hearing about this Jesus person who was rather new on the scene. He didn't just ask Jesus to come, but he fell to his knees. This is humbling for a man of his stature, but there seems to be little doubt in his mind that Jesus could heal his daughter.

Adding to the drama as Jesus was heading to Jairus' home, people came and told the child's father that she died. The Bible doesn't tell us Jairus' reaction, but we can imagine that he was distraught with grief. Jesus comforted him and continued his trek to Jairus' home.

Despite the people telling him his daughter was dead, and the people at his home laughing at Jesus' claim that the child was just sleeping, Jairus must have kept his faith. He let Jesus dismiss everyone and he went inside with Jesus.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**"Don't be afraid. Just have faith" (Mark 5:36b NLT).**

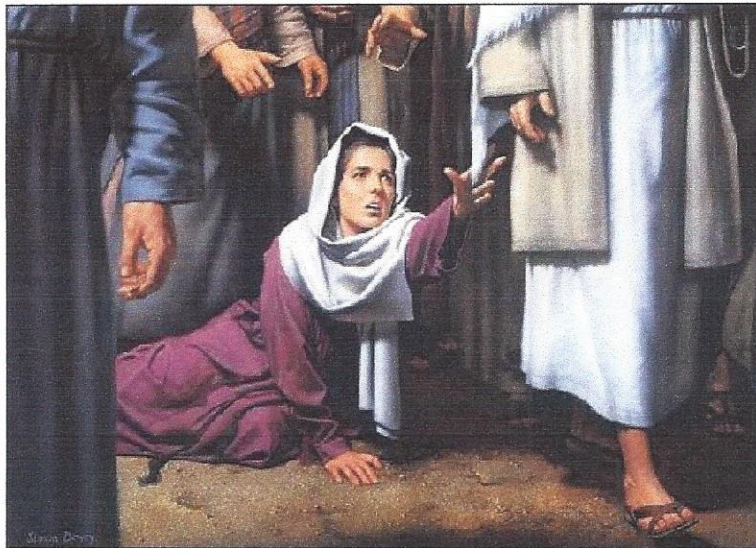
## *DAY 2 – Wednesday*

### **Read Mark 5: 25-34**

When you read this passage you can sense the pandemonium. The crowd surrounded Jesus and people are begging for favors. Probably many were there just to see a miracle or out of curiosity.

This woman in the crowd needed healing. She probably thought there was no way to get His attention. There were too many people, many more important than this destitute woman. But she **resolved** to get close to Jesus. Her faith was so strong she knew that just touching his robe would bring an end to her twelve years of suffering.

Despite the chaos and all the people, Jesus knew someone had touched Him with faith and a healing had taken place. The woman trembled, but admitted to what she had done. She had faith in His power, but not His compassion. He was not angry, but pleased with her faith.



### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**"Daughter your faith has made you well" (Mark 5: 34b NLT).**

### ***DAY 3 - Thursday***

#### **Read Matthew 8: 5-13**

When I think of a Roman soldier I envision a rough individual with little or no compassion. A bold man who knows his importance, and often abuses his authority.

This story contradicts most of my image, however the officer was bold. He **resolved** to approach Jesus with a humble heart and great faith in order to save his servant. This took both courage and compassion on his part. After all, an officer does not plead, especially *to* a Jew and *for* a servant!

The officer understood what it was to command others, and God had granted him wisdom to recognize that Jesus had command over everything, including life and death.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**"Because you believed, it has happened" (Matthew 8: 13b NLT).**

### ***DAY 4 – Friday***

#### **Read Matthew 15: 21-28**

This account is so different from the other healings we read about earlier in the week. Why was Jesus so harsh with this woman? She was a Gentile, but so was the Roman officer.

Jesus even referred to her as a dog – calling her something less than human. It didn't stop this woman's **resolve**. She was determined to receive a healing for her child. I think most of us can relate. How hard it is to see our child sick, and this child was tormented by demons!

The woman seemed to understand that she was not worthy to speak to Jesus. She wasn't offended by His brusque demeanor. Instead she worshipped Him and willingly accepted any scraps Jesus was willing to offer. She knew that was enough.

Her persistence paid off and her daughter was healed.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**"Dear woman, your faith is great. Your request is granted" (Matthew 15: 28a NLT).**



### ***DAYS 5 & 6 - WEEKEND REFLECTIONS (Saturday and Sunday)***

When we reflect over this week's devotions it takes your breath away. These accounts describe only a few of the healings. One thing to notice is that there must be faith in order for Jesus to respond to our requests. There is also the realization that it is not only appropriate to be bold when we approach our Lord, but it is also possible to be forthright and humble at the same time.

Do you suppose the crowd understood what they witnessed the day when both the woman who touched Jesus and Jairus' daughter was healed? We miss so much when we don't keep focused on Jesus. I imagine it was like crowded Bethlehem when Jesus was born. So many just miss it – even today.

It is a little confusing that in the recorded account of the Roman officer, Jesus is clear that He saves both Jews and Gentiles; but He is less inclusive when speaking to the woman with the demon possessed daughter. However, we know that the Jews were first and they were to bring salvation to the rest of the world. We can take comfort that He did provide healing and we know the Holy Spirit is with us today.



### ***Day 7 – Monday***

Take this day to focus on your Sunday sermon, spending additional time in prayer to prepare for your week. Tomorrow print off the next “word of the week” devotional.