

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

ENCOUNTER

Glittering Images

Mark 5.21-24

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

²² Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³ and 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.” ²⁴ So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. **Mark 5.22-24**

Jairus, a highly regarded leader in this story, gives up his “glittering image” as he throws himself at the feet of Jesus, pleading with Him to heal his daughter. He makes himself vulnerable in front of the crowd, displaying his pain and desperation. Consequently, we see the crowd “pressing in on Jesus,” seemingly walking with Jairus in his pain, helping carry him, with Jesus, to his daughter.

*The default of American culture has become **individuality**. In contrast, the default of scripture of both the Old and New Testaments is **community**. Think about your “glittering image.” Thomas reminds us that God does not meet us in those places.*

- What forces keep you most often from allowing Jesus to encounter you in your places of need?
- Who are the people in your life who will walk with you in your pain, need, and discomfort?
- What do you need to do to more strongly commit to being part of a community this fall?

Thomas tells the story of two pastors, confiding in one another their mutual doubts concerning their own faith. If not for the two pastors’ willingness to be honest and open about their doubts and fears, then they might not been able to see Jesus in the midst of their questioning.

- Consider the opportunities for transformation in your life and others, if we are able to put aside our worries about the way others might see us if we are vulnerable.
- What are the areas in your life in which you need to be more honest about your pain?

We were designed to encounter God and to carry one another to Jesus. It is a privilege we have to be able to live into this natural design for our lives. The more honest and open we can be with those in our community, the more that others will value us enough to carry us to Jesus who will encounter us and transform us.

- How freeing would it be for people to know your areas of your deepest pain and for them to carry you to Jesus?
- Thomas handed out “daily examen” cubes and encouraged us to utilize these cubes with our families, friends, and small groups in an effort to find those deeper places of honesty with one another. How will you use yours this week?

*Lord, help us to not hide behind our glittering images, but to have the courage and faith to live with honesty and vulnerability, so that You might encounter us and transform us as we carry one another to you. **Amen***