

“Desperation”

11 November 2018

Little Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto

Discussion Questions  
(take as many as you want, in any order)

*Read Mark 5.21-43*

1. The sermon began by noting the spare detail in the Gospel story, and suggested that this is an invitation for us to enter the story imaginatively to fill out the detail. Select someone in your group to read the Gospel lesson out loud, slowly. Take note of any details that jump out at you. Then go around the circle and share:
  - a. what you noticed in this reading, and why it captured your attention.
  - b. how does the story make you feel?
2. As a group, compile a list of all the characters you can identify in this story. Do you identify with any of them? Who and why? What does it mean to you to identify with the character(s) – that is, how does it make you feel and what does it make you think about?
3. Recap, in your own words, how the sermon imagined Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage. Did this portrayal ring true to you? Why or why not? What would you add to/subtract from/change in this portrayal? How does changing our imagined versions of Jairus and the woman change how we read the story?
4. The sermon suggests that Jairus and the woman each demonstrated a “bad” faith, by certain standards, in that it doesn’t appear to have been filled with content of who Jesus was and why it was important to trust him. Instead, the sermon says, “at a certain level of desperation there appears to be no appreciable difference between needing Jesus and believing in him”. The takeaways from this were that 1) “our need for God will always run deeper than any faith we can muster in him”, and 2) “you do not have to get God right before God will love you”. How do you react to these various propositions? What rings true? What rings false? Do you find this encouraging/threatening/unpersuasive? Why? What does all this mean for your own life?
5. The sermon suggested that by our entering the story – the Word of God – we opened ourselves to being entered by the Word, in turn, which transforms us. Were you affected by entering into the story? How?