

# Where's Your Chair?

Mark 5 21-43



Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;  
let your cries consider well the voice of my supplication.  
Psalm 130:1

## **Praising:**

Father of mercy, God of consolation,  
look on your people, gathered here to praise you,  
pity our weakness, come in power to aid us,  
source of all blessing.

## **Reading:**

Mark 5:21-43  
Jairus' daughter and the woman in the crowd

There is desperation so raw that it cries out in fear and sheer panic. But there is also desperation that grinds people down and turns them in on themselves. To Jairus the leader of the synagogue Jesus is public enemy number one and yet he's throwing himself at Jesus' feet in full public view. The woman in the crowd has been ritually unclean

for twelve years. A social pariah, if what she's been hearing about Jesus is even partially true, maybe just brushing past him will be enough. While there are telling differences in the way Jesus responds to both these heart-breaking situations, in both instances it was the desperate who sought Jesus out and it was to the desperate that Jesus gave rescue. What is it we need that only God can give and how desperate really are we?

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord we pray for the desperate

- those who live with the reality or threat of danger
- those who fear for their own lives or for the lives of loved ones
- those engulfed by tragedy, trauma, loss, separation and grief

Father, so much of the time my life seems all right, so much of the time it's nice to pray but I can manage. Be there, please, when it's the other times – when desperation comes calling.  
Amen

## **Doing:**

Tuesday, 3 November 2015