**Christ Alone – Week 1 (Jesus’ Ministry)**

**March 20-21, 2021**

Have you ever heard someone tell a story before where you thought, “C’mon…there’s no WAY that happened!”?

 **(Teacher’s Note: Share a quick story you heard where you were immediately skeptical.)**

I want to tell you a story that is going to seem pretty unbelievable…

**(Teacher’s Note: Retell the story and miracle accounts of Mark 5:21-43 in your own words. I am providing a sample script here, but feel free to change the scripting to fit your voice. Please tell the story as anonymously as possible – the students shouldn’t know that it is from the Bible until the end.)**

There was a man named Jairus who worked at the local synagogue. A synagogue is a place where people from the Jewish faith come and worship. People from all over the city came to worship at this synagogue. Jairus was one of the people who led these times of worship along with fulfilling some other duties. Unfortunately, Jairus’s 12-year-old daughter became very sick. They had no idea what had happened to her; not even the doctors. It happened so suddenly. You can imagine how sad or scared Jairus’s family had to be with this news. However, Jairus had heard of this rabbi in the city who people claimed could heal people. Jairus had to find this guy! As it turned out, this man was teaching by the lake one day with this huge group of people gathered around him. Jairus fought his way through the crowd…I mean, he HAD to talk to this guy! This might be his only chance! He fell down at the man’s feet, weeping, and he said, “Please come and see my daughter. She is so sick. If you just lay hands on her, I KNOW she will be healed!” The man looked at Jairus and said, “Of course I will come with you.”

The man and Jairus rushed to back to his house. The large group who had gathered followed the two men as they frantically tried to get back to his daughter. In the hustle and bustle, there was a woman who had been subjected to bleeding for 12 years. She knew of this same man that Jairus did…and right in the middle of the crowd, she told herself, “If I could only touch his cloak, I will be healed!” She rushed up to him and touched his cloak, and immediately, she felt the suffering leave her body. The man turned around and said, “Who touched me?” The people around him were confused: “Everyone is crowding around you, sir. EVERYONE is touching you!” However, the man was insistent and continued to look around for who touched him. The woman finally got in front of him, fell at his feet, trembling…and she told him about her condition and what had just happened. The man said, “Your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

While the man was speaking with the woman, some people came from Jairus’s house. “Your daughter is dead! Why are you bothering this teacher? This is pointless!” The man overheard what they said and turned to Jairus and said, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” The man grabbed only a few people from the crowd with him and went inside Jairus’s house. Tons of people were there and they were sobbing. Some were even wailing. The man said, “Why is everyone crying?

The girl is not dead…she is just asleep.” Right in the middle of the crying and weeping, some people began to laugh and mock the man. He sent them all outside and kept Jairus and his wife inside. With her parents by her side, the man took the little girl’s hand and said, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” Almost immediately, the girl’s eyes opened and she stood up and began to walk around the room! The people were astonished. They were completely speechless. Just as quickly as he came, the man told the family to get her something to eat and he left.

**In case you are curious, this story has been passed on for generations and generations. In fact, it happened over 2000 years ago. The man’s name really was Jairus because Jairus told this story to a man named Mark and Mark recorded these events in writing. Eventually, around 70 AD, he put together an entire book full of eyewitness accounts of this story and many others and of this man who attracted large crowds and did impossible things. The man was known by the name of Jesus.**

If you want to read this story for yourself, you can look it up in Mark 5:21-43 in the Bible. This story, along with many others, are what the Bible refers to as…MIRACLES. The unexplainable happening in real life…something crazy that happens.

The series we are starting today is called Christ Alone. The name of this series comes from a Scripture in the New Testament where Peter and John, two of Jesus’s disciples, tell the religious authorities something very important. It comes from Acts 4:12 where the writer, Luke, records Peter saying this: *“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”* Peter tells us very directly that it is only through Jesus Christ alone that we can be saved from our sins and have a relationship with God.

Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at what makes Jesus unique and why He alone is the way to know God. We’ll look at some of the most important moments of his life and why it still matters to us today! Today, we are looking at Jesus’ ministry, so here is our first THP (or Take Home Point) for the series…

**THP: Jesus’s ministry was about the EXTRAORDINARY happening in the ORDINARY!**

Jesus’ ministry was about reaching out to those who were rejected or judged by society or religious people. In John chapter 8, we see Jesus saving a woman from being stoned, which is where people would take giant rocks and throw them at a person until they killed them. He tells the people ready to kill her, “Let he who is without sin, cast the first stone.” The woman’s life is spared and he tells her, “I do not condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.” An EXTRAORDINARY act of forgiveness in everyday, ORDINARY life.

There’s another instance where Jesus heals a blind man in the very next chapter of John, John chapter 9. This man had been blind since birth! Jesus spit in the ground, made some mud with it, and then rubbed it on the man’s eyes!! Crazy…I mean, who does that?! The people and the religious leaders (the Pharisees) thought the man was crazy and threw him out of the synagogue. When Jesus realized they had thrown the man out, he came to him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” (which was another way of saying, “Do you believe in the Messiah?”) The man said, “Tell me who it is so I can believe in him.” Jesus told him, “It’s me. I am the Son of Man.” The guy falls down and worships him! At that moment, he knew that Jesus was the Messiah. An EXTRAORDINARY miracle in everyday, ORDINARY life.

Jesus tells a story about a Samaritan man who stops to help a wounded man on the side of the road after a priest and a religious leader pass by him and don’t help. In this time period, Samaritans were a hated people group; a racially/ethnically different group people. In fact, they were probably viewed the same way that African-Americans were viewed by many people here in our country for hundreds of years: they’re not “one of us.”

I want to be very clear about something: JESUS VALUES EVERY SINGLE PERSON. Every person has worth and has a God-given purpose. There is no place for racism in the life of a Christian. Jesus makes the Samaritan man, the racial and ethnic outsider, the hero because anyone who “loves their neighbor” is following the way of God. It wasn’t ORDINARY to treat people like that. In fact, it was unclean to touch anyone who was dead or looked like they were dead. Jesus shows the EXTRAORDINARY love of God through this parable of the Good Samaritan. It reminds us that this is how God treats all people. He loves them no matter who they are or where they come from.

**Students…Christianity doesn’t just show us EXTRAORDINARY stories, miracles, and transformed lives. It shows us an EXTRAORDINARY person: Jesus Christ!**

I have a question for each of you here today: where do YOU need the EXTRAORDINARY to happen in the ORDINARY parts of your life? Listen…you don’t have to be inside the four walls of a church building to experience God. It is possible to experience God in everyday life and sometimes, the most powerful experiences with God happen when our EXTRAORDINARY God does something incredible in your ORDINARY, routine life.

**(Leaders Note: Share an experience from your life where you saw God do the EXTRAORDINARY in the ORDINARY.)**

Let’s look at our THP one last time: **Jesus’s ministry was about the EXTRAORDINARY happening in the ORDINARY.** Let me ask you a couple of questions as we close today: where do you need the extraordinary to happen in the ordinary of your life? What is a step you can take to learn more about this EXTRAORDINARY Jesus? Can I make one suggestion to you? Make a commitment to start spending a few times during the week reading the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. If you don’t have a Bible, please let your life group leader know or contact the student pastor at your campus so we can get you one! By reading about the life of Jesus, we can truly know God more deeply and it can change our life. It is Jesus Christ alone who can help us do that. Let’s pray. (**Teacher’s Note: Pray and then finish script).**

Thanks for being here at Northview Students today and we hope you have a great discussion! We’ll see you next week!