

THE GOSPEL PROJECT – CHRONOLOGICAL STORIES AND SIGNS

JESUS THE MIRACLE WORKER

Jesus Heals a Woman and Raises a Child

Matthew 9:18-26, Mark 5:21-43, Luke 8:40-56

Our generation is experiencing the beginning of Virtual Reality via computer technology. Headsets are used to simulate a user's physical presence in a 'virtual environment.' Those who are very familiar with the miracles of Jesus, may tend to miss the 'wow' factor of His miracles for the simple reason that we know them so well. Today, people can be amazed over what they see and hear just because they are using 'virtual reality' technology. We should always be amazed by the Most Holy and Most High God. **Jeremiah 32:17 (ESV)** ¹⁷ *'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.* Today, I encourage you to experience the amazement of the Son of God's miracles not through computer generated reality but through eyes of faith in the God who loves us so!

On the shores of Capernaum a crowd was eagerly waiting for the arrival of Jesus. Among the Capernaum crowd stood two people – a man and a woman both very different but both very much in need and both very eager to make contact with Jesus – the Miracle Worker. Trust in Jesus' power to take away sickness.

Read Mark 5:21-29 (ESV) ²¹ *And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea.* ²² *Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet* ²³ *and implored him earnestly, saying, "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 *And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.* ²⁵ *And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years,* ²⁶ *and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.* ²⁷ *She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment.* ²⁸ *For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."* ²⁹ *And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.*

Consider the contrast of the two people who were both desperately in need of Jesus – one was an important synagogue ruler, the other a woman – a nobody in the eyes of the crowd. Jairus was accepted by society because of his position as a synagogue leader and a family man. The unnamed woman, was an outcast because of her affliction. Because of her uncleanness, she would have been denied entrance into the synagogue where Jairus worshipped. **Leviticus 15:25 (ESV)** ²⁵ *"If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days... all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness..."* The Law had shut her out from contact with others. The Law had shut her out from public worship of God. It was unlikely that she even had contact with family members after experiencing 12 years of uncleanness.

The common denominator between these two very different people is they both were beyond natural help and needed a miracle. We will find out a bit later that Jairus' daughter was 12 years old – the very same number of years that this woman had lived in distress and pain and discomfort. The girl was about to die at age 12 before barely beginning to live while this grown woman had been living as a dead person for 12 years. We all have different life experiences; nevertheless, the sufferings of this world link us all together.

Jesus of Nazareth was an outcast to the religious leaders of His day, but Jairus did not care. He was desperate. His faith in Jesus caused him to ignore his friends and say to Jesus on behalf of his daughter: *Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.*

This unnamed woman was also desperate to connect with Jesus. Mark relates that she *had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.* Pastor David Legge gives us an idea of how she might have suffered. He writes, “The Talmud, which is a body of Jewish civil and religious laws added to the Old Testament by the Jews. It listed eleven cures for this particular hemorrhage. Some were potions, some were superstitions.” A couple of the Talmud remedies are: (1) Set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let someone come behind and frighten her and say, 'Arise from thy flux'. (2) The afflicted woman should carry a barley corn which had been taken from the droppings of a white she-donkey to be cured of this illness. Even when modern medicine is ‘clueless’ in our day, remember this: **Jeremiah 17:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.*

The woman wanted to **touch** Jesus. She was not ready to profess her faith publicly. True, she did not want people to know what she was doing. Yes, her faith was imperfect but her faith was in the perfect Savior! God honored her little faith and healed her - not because of the quality of her faith, or the size of her faith, but because of the One in whom she placed her faith. She immediately knew she was healed. Trust in Jesus' power to take away the shame of impurity.

Read Mark 5:30-34 (ESV) ³⁰ *And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?”* ³¹ *And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”* ³² *And he looked around to see who had done it.* ³³ *But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.* ³⁴ *And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”*

In the midst of his despair, Jairus finds he must wait on the Lord. We can only imagine how Jairus felt when the woman distracted Jesus. Possibly, he said to himself, “This is all I need right now!” On the other hand, he may have been at peace in his spirit because he knew he had put his trust in Jesus, the Miracle Worker. Do the interruptions in your life upset you? Or have you learned to wait patiently on the Lord? **Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)** ³¹ *but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

This woman who had been unclean for 12 years was now healed and her plan was to slip away and get lost in the crowd. Jesus turned and questioned, “*Who touched my garments?*” He was opening the opportunity for her to give a wonderful testimony of what the Lord had done for her. Why did Jesus do this publicly? Partly, it would have been for the benefit of Jairus, the disciples and the crowd. However, it was also for the woman herself. She came to Jesus trembling. Matthew Henry comments that she came trembling when she should have been triumphing.

Jesus wanted her to acknowledge what He had done for her openly. He wanted her to look into His face when He called her *daughter*. To be ‘made well’ involves much more than our physical needs. Jesus was tending to her spiritual healing as well! There is nothing better for those that fear and tremble than to throw ourselves at the feet of the Lord Jesus and to humble ourselves before Him. Jesus gave her the opportunity to share publicly what He had done for her. ***Psalm 107:2 (ESV)***² *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble.* Trust in Jesus’ power to take away the curse of death.

Read Mark 5:35-43 (ESV)³⁵ *While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler’s house some who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”*³⁶ *But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”*³⁷ *And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.*³⁸ *They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.*³⁹ *And when he had entered, he said to them, “Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.”*⁴⁰ *And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.*⁴¹ *Taking her by the hand he said to her, “Talitha cumi,” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”*⁴² *And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.*⁴³ *And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.*

From Jairus’ associates, we see an attitude that we should **not** take. People from Jairus’ own household bluntly said, don’t bother Jesus – she is dead already. In crisis situations, it is not our responsibility to make someone “face facts.” Be careful not to be a “Job’s Comforter.” Recall how during Job’s time of crisis, his friends were anything but encouragers. I am not saying give false hope. Just let your presence speak for you. Often the gift of our presence in times of crisis will be a greater encouragement to others than we will ever know.

Matthew, Mark and Luke tell these two same miracles. Matthew only relates that Jairus told Jesus that his daughter had died while Mark and Luke relate that he said she was dying. Bible critics call this a contradiction. Bible scholars explain the differences in several ways but I think the best answer is that Jairus spoke both statements. Mark and Luke mention her severe sickness, while Matthew speaks only of her death. The gospel accounts are not carbon copies. If they were, why would we need four? Does Matthew’s omission of the coming of the messengers who tell Jairus that his daughter has just died mean that his account contradicts the others? Certainly not! Nor do Mark and Luke providing additional details contradict what Matthew relates.

Jesus performed several other resurrections from the dead during His ministry. However, this particular resurrection of Jairus' daughter is an encouragement for us to be intercessory prayer warriors on the behalf of others. Jesus raised Jairus' daughter due in part to the faith of her father and his willingness to come boldly to Christ on his daughter's behalf even in the face of hopelessness.

The Jewish people used "professional mourners" to come and cry and wail at the home when someone died. Funerals in Jesus' day were noisy affairs. Even poor families hired two flute players and one professional wailing woman. The crowd laughed at Jesus and they were put aside reminding us that only those who believe can actually see a miracle.

Some might question, "Why would the Lord allow someone to die young? There is no easy answer on this side of eternity. However, we are reminded in **Hebrews 9:27-28 (ESV)** ²⁷ *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,* ²⁸ *so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

Because of sin, death was promised to the human race. Because of Jesus, life is promised to the human race. Those who trust in Jesus will be raised from death to life - eternal life. Jesus during His ministry exhibited His power over physical death by raising some to physical life although they eventually died again. Never think that because a loved one dies, God is somehow punishing you. Death was promised to all in the beginning because of sin. Jesus Himself died on the cross and conquered death. Because of this we have a Blessed Hope. **Titus 2:13 (ESV)** ¹³ *waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.* During His ministry, Jesus through His miracles provided people a picture of this 'Blessed Hope' still to come.

Although the New Testament was written in Greek, Mark preserves how Jesus literally addressed the dead girl in the language of His time – Aramaic. Something Irish pastor David Legge said in a sermon, helps us to visual what happened. Place yourself in that room watching the child who has just died when Jesus said, *Talitha Cumi.*

"This brought a tear to my eye, that literally means: 'Little lamb, arise'. Little lamb, arise! I think Mark kept it in the Aramaic because there was something incommunicable in that statement - whether it was the tone, I don't know, but there was something in it that spoke of the tenderness of the Lord Jesus. Can you hear those words fall on the girl's cold, dull ears? Can you see her eyes flutter and open wide? And the first thing she saw was the face of Jesus. Then she looks around and sees Mum and Dad, and three stunned apostles that Jesus took into the room. Do you know what that is? The Servant's power over death - and do you know something? Whether the Savior comes or calls, it is a foreshadowing of what we all are going to go through. We're going to hear our name! We're going to open our eyes! We're going to see His face! We're going to be with our family, the family of God."

And that, my friends, is the TRUE REALITY of knowing Jesus!