

## HEALED BY FAITH

Bible Background – MATTHEW 8:23-27; MARK 5:21-43; LUKE 8:40-56

Printed Text – MATTHEW 9:18-26

### Jesus Heals in Response to Faith

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was saying this, the leader of a synagogue came and knelt before him. “My daughter has just died,” he said, “but you can bring her back to life again if you just come and lay your hand on her.”

<sup>19</sup> So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him.

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding came up behind him. She touched the fringe of his robe,

<sup>21</sup> for she thought, “If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned around, and when he saw her he said, “Daughter, be encouraged! Your faith has made you well.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus arrived at the official’s home, he saw the noisy crowd and heard the funeral music.

<sup>24</sup> “Get out!” he told them. “The girl isn’t dead; she’s only asleep.” But the crowd laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup> After the crowd was put outside, however, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up!

<sup>26</sup> The report of this miracle swept through the entire countryside.

-----New Living Translation

### Lesson Introduction

This lesson examines an account of miraculous healing within another account of miraculous healing and the nature of the faith involved. The narrative of this passage demonstrates the power of God to bring life and healing to our lives. This is certainly reason to rejoice!

**Background:** Matthew writes a cluster of miracle narratives, one healing narrative inside the framework of another. First, there is the desperate cry of a synagogue ruler for the life of his daughter. Next, there is the hopelessness of a woman with a 12-year bleeding disorder. Both stories tell of desperation, and each one can stand independent from the others. These narratives demonstrate the authority, power, and compassion of Jesus. His fame had spread throughout the region, and thousands of people were following Him because everywhere He went He cured every disease and sickness (Matthew 9:35). Today there are many reasons people follow Jesus. Maybe it is what their friends are doing, or maybe they simply want to receive a blessing. The scribes and Pharisees (religious rulers), however, followed Jesus to test the validity of His being the Son of David, the Messiah. Jesus was their king, but they would not acknowledge Him. They were trying to discredit Him and find a reason to put Him to death. The Pharisees went so far as to say He casts demons out of people by the power of the ruler

of demons (v. 34). But the people were saying, “It was never so seen in Israel” (v. 33). Jesus is moved to deep compassion by what He sees people confused, leaderless, scattered, and dying in their sins!

-----*Precepts for Living*, the UMI Annual Commentary 2020-2021, p. 494-495

### **Compassion for the Hopeless**

**Matthew 9:18-19:** This passage in Matthew does not tell us this, but we know from Mark 5:22 and Luke 8:41, that Jairus is the name of the Synagogue official that approached Jesus about his daughter who had died. He comes with respect and humility, and bows in reverence to Jesus, with faith that He could do the miraculous. This grieving father came to Jesus with a heaviness that no parent ever expects to endure. Research says that the loss of a child is the most devastating of all deaths to cope with. But in his grief, he doesn't question the death of his 12-year-old daughter, he just asks with expectation for the Lord to make her live. Jairus clearly recognized that Jesus had the power over life and death and had faith that He could remedy the situation. Jesus responds to this father's bold faith and with His disciples, accompanies Jairus to his home.

◆ *In times of hopelessness, do we ask Jesus for His touch?*

### **Compassion for the Helpless**

**Matthew 9:20-22:** As Jesus and His disciples proceeded to the house of Jairus, they encountered a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years. Her approach to Jesus was bold in its own way, but different from the boldness of Jairus. By nature of her illness, she was considered unclean by Jewish law and anything and anyone that she touched would be unclean as well. Being unclean meant that she was probably cut off from society and her Jewish family also. However, her determination to touch Jesus' garment spoke to the expectation she had, that any touch from Him would not contaminate Jesus, but actually cleanse her.

Jewish men wore tassels or fringe on the bottom of their robes as a symbol of their devotion to God and a reminder to keep the Law (Numbers 15:37-41). She had a determination to touch the representation of God's faithfulness to Israel—the fringe on the hem of Jesus' garment, probably believing that she could do so without being noticed. The woman's actions demonstrated her belief in God's law and the holiness of Jesus as One sent by God. Jesus did however, “notice” her. He recognized her faith and acknowledged that her faith had made her whole.

◆ *What do we need for Jesus to touch for us? Cancer? Depression?*

### **Compassion for Healing**

**Matthew 9:23-26:** After continuing their journey, Jesus reached and entered Jairus' house where the people and hired musicians had already begun mourning the girl's death. He forcefully told them to leave for the girl was not dead but merely sleeping. Upon hearing this, the people laughed and scorned Him for making what they considered an extremely ridiculous statement. For the girl was clearly dead! It is no wonder Jesus made them leave, for faith cannot exist alongside disbelief. Likewise, sometimes our belief in Jesus seems ridiculous to others and we may find ourselves the

victims of ridicule and scorn. But our devotion to Him is no laughing matter and we must not allow the derision to impact our faith.

When “unbelief” was no longer present, Jesus gently took the girl’s hand, and she arose. News of the restoration of the woman and the girl’s resurrection spread throughout the community and no doubt served to build the faith of many in the community. So just as today, when we act on faith and receive God’s blessing, it strengthens those who witness the hand of God.

◆ *How has an act of faith in your community made surprisingly wide ripple effects?*

### **Conclusion**

This is a lesson of faith and the vital part our faith plays in receiving the mighty hand of God on our lives. Through their faith in Him, Jesus showed great compassion on Jairus, his daughter and the woman with the issue of blood. Knowing that our Lord is full of compassion should certainly effect our response to Him especially in our moments of need. But as representatives of Christ on this earth, we should also learn to respond as Jesus does with great compassion to others who are desperate, hopeless and helpless.

### **Sources:**

Ogbonnaya, A. O. (Ed.). (2019). Practice Justice. *Precepts for Living*, 22(Spring Quarter), The Urban Ministries, Inc. Annual Commentary 2020-2021. 491-500.

Parson, E. *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2002.

**Lesson for Next Week – June 27, 2021**

**Why Do You Doubt**

Bible Background ♦ MATTHEW 14:22-33

Printed Text ♦ MATTHEW 14:22-33

Devotional Reading ♦ ISAIAH 38:16-20

**Monday**

Let's Sing of the Lord's Faithfulness  
(Isaiah 38:16-20)

**TUESDAY**

The Baptist Dies for the Faith  
(Matthew 14:1-12)

**WEDNESDAY**

The Crowd's Hunger Satisfied  
(Matthew 14:13-21)

**THURSDAY**

Believe the One Sent to You  
(John 6:22-29)

**FRIDAY**

The Sick Are Healed  
(Matthew 14:34-36)

**SATURDAY**

Speak Confidently to Civil Authorities  
(Mark 13:9-12)

**SUNDAY**

Savior of the Fearful, Doubter, Needy  
(Matthew 14:22-33)