

### A Bleeding Woman is Healed and a Young Girl is Raised to Life

#### Luke 8:40-56

*Luke 8:40-56: So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. 41 And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. 43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. 45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him[a] said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" 46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. 48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer;[c] your faith has made you well. Go in peace." 49 While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." 50 But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." 51 When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. 52 Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." 53 And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. 54 But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." 55 Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. 56 And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.*

#### Background Notes

These two miracles - the healing of a woman with internal bleeding and the raising to life of Jairus' daughter - are also given together in Matthew 9 and Mark 5. They're recorded together because they happened together, but also because of the dispensational truth that is pictured here. We'll mention that in our second doctrinal point.

In verse 40 we read that the Lord returned from the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee where He had healed the man who was possessed by many demons. "So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him." Now that the Lord was back in the more populated area on the western side of the Sea of Galilee, a man named Jairus came to Him for help. "And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying."

Jairus was an official of the synagogue, probably the Capernaum synagogue. He knew full well of the Lord's miraculous powers. He certainly had heard about the healing of the Roman centurion's servant, because the centurion was stationed at Capernaum (Luke 8). He probably saw the healing of the man with the withered hand in the synagogue (Luke 6). Prior to his daughter's illness, as an official of the synagogue Jairus may actually have sided with the scribes and Pharisees who were trying to find fault with the Lord. Luke 6:6-7 says, *"Now it happened on another Sabbath, also, that He entered the synagogue and taught. And a man was there whose right hand was withered. So the scribes and Pharisees watched Him closely, whether He would heal on the Sabbath, that they might find an accusation against Him."* So Jairus may have been among the many Jewish leaders who were trying to find fault with the Lord.

But when Jairus' own daughter became very sick his attitude changed completely. He even asked Jesus to come into his home, even though he knew that a "ceremonially unclean" woman has just touched Jesus. What changed Jairus' attitude? It was because *his own daughter* was at the point of death, and he had nowhere to turn but to the Lord.

Isn't it amazing how many people finally reach out to God for help in times of crisis? This is not by chance. God allows crisis situations to enter our lives in order to change our attitudes and our lives. This is true for believers and unbelievers alike. Jairus certainly turned in the right direction, but his faith was further tested, as he had to wait along the way for the Lord to care for the woman who reached out to Him for healing.

## Doctrinal Points

### 1. The touch of faith results in great peace.

The woman in Luke 8:43 had been bleeding for twelve years, and had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any. Isn't it interesting that this poor woman had been sick for twelve years - the same number of years that Jairus' daughter had been alive and well? It's also interesting to note that Luke says only that "no one could heal her," whereas Mark's Gospel gives a few more details of her case. Mark says that the woman had *"suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse"*(5:26). Dr. Luke, a physician himself, seems to have gone a little easier on his professional colleagues! He didn't go into all the details of the many unsuccessful attempts at a cure - he simply mentioned that none of the physicians had been able to find a cure for this woman.

The reason the woman wanted to touch the fringe of the Lord's cloak was that the fringe or tassels on the garment of a Jewish rabbi (or any Jew who was carefully observing the Law) was considered to be special. Numbers 15:37-40: *"the LORD spoke to Moses saying, "Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them, and that you may not*

*follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined, and that you may remember and do all My commandments, and be holy for your God."*

Over the years the fringe or tassels, especially on the cloak of a prophet or teacher, had taken on the almost superstitious idea of having special powers. This is why the woman wanted to touch this part of the Lord's garment. But this woman did not reach out in superstition. She reached out in true faith, in spite of the superstitious ideas that were common at that time.

The Lord recognized her true faith when He realized that a needy person had touched Him. *"Who touched Me?"* The disciples were amazed because the Lord was almost crushed by the huge crowd that thronged around Him. Peter said, "Everyone's touching you, Lord!" But the Lord recognized that this was a different touch. The fact that "power had gone out" from the Lord shows that the woman's disease was real, not a psychological notion.

Notice what the Lord said to the woman who reached out to touch Him: *"Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace"*(v48). The touch of faith resulted in great peace. The Lord's divine power responded to her touch of faith, and it resulted in great peace. This is true today, too. Anyone who reaches out to the Lord in faith will find great peace. It's true in reference to salvation and for any problem in the Christian life. The Lord can still respond in power to the touch of faith. The Lord may not cure every disease or sickness, but the touch of faith will result in great peace.

## **2. The truth of Christ results in new life.**

We certainly see this truth taught in the second miracle, don't we? Jairus' daughter raised to new life is certainly an illustration of salvation. Ephesians 2:1 says, *"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins."* When the Lord said that the girl was only sleeping, He was encouraging her parents that her condition was only temporary, just as 1 Corinthians 11 refers to believers who have died as being asleep.

This miracle is a spiritual picture of the new life that is given to every believer upon salvation. In addition, it is a picture of the spiritual rebirth of Israel in the last days. Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue, and his daughter who had died, are a picture of Israel under Judaism - without hope, and dead to the promises of God in Christ. But in a coming day (maybe not too far into the future) Israel will turn back to the Lord in faith. They will receive the Messiah whom they once rejected. As a result, Israel will be given a new heart and a new life when they respond to the truth of Christ.

Ezekiel 36:26 is just one of the many prophetic passages predicting these great events for Israel in the future. The Lord says to Israel, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you."* The truth of Christ results in new life.

## Practical Application

### Let's testify, and be taught.

In these two miracles, two essentials of living the balanced Christian life are illustrated: to testify and to be taught. In the first miracle we see the importance of our witness and testimony. The woman was asked by the Lord Himself to publicly confess that she had touched the Lord in faith, and had been healed. She shared her personal testimony about what the Lord had done for her - and so should we. We may not have had as dramatic a touch of faith as this woman had, but we have been healed of the systemic disease of sin as a result of coming to the Lord in faith for salvation. The Lord asks us to answer the question: "*Who touched me?*" Let's testify to others of our salvation.

A second essential for Christian life and growth is illustrated in the second miracle. As the young girl with new life was to be given something to eat, we need to constantly be fed on the Word of God so we will grow to maturity as believers. Only the Word of God can feed the new life that we have in Christ.

Do you see these two essentials for the balanced Christian life that are illustrated in these intertwined miracles? Let's testify, and be taught!