

Two Miracles of Our Lord: Healing Sickness and Raising the Dead

Mark 5:21-43

Mark 5:21-43 - *"Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to Him; and He was by the sea. ²² And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet ²³ and begged Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live." ²⁴ So Jesus went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.*

²⁵ Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" ³¹ But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" ³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. ³³ But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came 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 affliction."

Background Notes (for verses 21-34)

Verses 25-26 give the account of a woman who had a bleeding problem for twelve years. She had exhausted her savings going to many doctors, but wasn't helped. In fact, she had only gotten worse. It's interesting to read Luke's comments on this woman's case, in the parallel account in Luke 8. Remember, Luke was a physician. He didn't talk much about how she had used up all her savings paying the medical profession! All he says is that she had not been healed.

All the woman wanted was to reach out and touch the Lord's clothing. Luke says it was the edge, or hem, or fringe of His outer garment. Possibly she was trying to touch the tasseled fringe that observant Jews wear on their garment, according to the Law. (See Numbers 15.) The Lord would have worn such a garment in obedience to the Law.

Doctrinal Point

The touch of faith is different than the touch of curiosity.

The Lord asked, *"Who touched me?"* (v30.) The disciples were surprised at the question, because there was a crowd around the Lord. "Who touched you, Lord? In a crowd like this, everybody's touching you!" The crowd was touching the

Lord, but they were not reaching out to touch Him by faith. They were there as curiosity seekers. They had come to see the miracles. The woman, on the other hand, reached out and touched the Lord in faith, wanting to be healed.

We might wonder if she reached out superstitiously, thinking that there was something magical about the Lord's clothes, and that His power was somehow transferred to the fringe of His clothing. We don't know all that was in the woman's mind when she reached out and touched the fringe of His garment, but we do know that she reached out in faith - because the Lord said so! *"Your faith has made you well" (v34).*

Her faith was focused and centered in the Lord Himself, and that touch of faith brought healing after twelve long years of suffering. The Lord recognized that touch of faith as a very different touch than the crowd's touch of curiosity.

In the same way today, many people touch Christ out of curiosity. They study about His life. They may even believe in His miracles, or follow some of His teachings. But they've never reached out and touched Christ by faith. They have never committed their lives to Jesus Christ as personal Savior. They've been never cured of their sickness of sin. Have you reached out and touch the Lord by faith? The touch of faith is different than the touch of curiosity.

Practical Application

Don't let trembling stop you from testifying!

The Lord asked, *"Who touched me?"* The woman came forward, fearful and trembling, in order to confess publicly that she had touched Him (v33). She may have been trembling because she knew from the Law that, because of her bleeding problem, she had made the Lord ceremonially unclean by touching Him (Leviticus 15:25-27). Maybe she was afraid the Lord would rebuke her for touching Him. But in His grace the Lord said, *"Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction."*

When the Lord asked her to come forward and publicly testify that she had touched Him, do you think the Lord knew who touched Him? Do you think the Lord knew it would cause this woman to tremble? Of course He did. But He still wanted her to testify publicly about her touch of faith and her healing.

In the same way today, the Lord wants us to testify publicly about our healing. Romans 10:9 says, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* If you're a Christian, you've "touched the Lord" in faith. You've been healed of the disease of sin. Now the Lord says to us, "Who touched me?" Even though we may be fearful, He wants us to tell the people around us - at home, in the classroom, the neighborhood, the college campus, the lab, or the office. He wants us to tell others that we've reached out and touched Him by faith, and we've been healed! You may be nervous, you may be fearful, you may be trembling, but don't let trembling stop you from testifying!

Mark 5:35-43 - ³⁵ While He was still speaking, some came from the ruler of the synagogue's house who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe." ³⁷ And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James. ³⁸ Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly. ³⁹ When He came in, He said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping."

⁴⁰ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying. ⁴¹ Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." ⁴² Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age. And they were overcome with great amazement. ⁴³ But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat."

Background Notes (for verses 35-43)

Jairus was a synagogue official, probably in the synagogue at Capernaum. As an official, or ruler, he would have shared responsibilities in the synagogue, both in the services and in the synagogue school. It was a position of honor in the community. Jairus most likely would have seen the Lord heal the man with the withered hand (Mark 3), and he would have seen many of the healings and exorcisms of demons at Capernaum. What was his attitude towards Jesus at that time? We don't know, but there's a good chance he would have sided with the self-righteous religious leaders who found fault with the Lord.

However, when his twelve-year-old daughter became mortally ill (and Luke tells us that she was his only daughter) - well that was a different story. God allowed this tragic illness to happen so that Jairus would turn to Christ. How often, even today, God allows what the world would call a tragedy to draw people to Christ.

Can you imagine Jairus' anxiety when the Lord stopped to heal the woman who touched Him - especially when someone came from his house to tell him, "Your daughter has died"? Can you imagine Jairus' feelings when the Lord paused even longer to speak to the woman after she was healed? But Jairus showed great faith. He obeyed the Lord's command to believe, and not to be afraid.

The people at the home who were weeping and mourning (v38) would have included some professional mourners, which was the common practice in that day. These paid "mourners" were likely the people who mocked the Lord when He said that the girl was only asleep. The girl had really died, but the Lord meant although she had really died, it was like a temporary sleep. The Lord was going to raise her.

The Lord put all the mourners and mockers out. Then, in the Aramaic language that the girl spoke, He tenderly said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Doctrinal Point

Apart from Christ, mankind is dead and dying

The Bible teaches the truth of this doctrinal point, and it's pictured in these two intertwined miracles in Mark 5. Apart from Christ, because of sin, we are both spiritually dead and physically dying. We are spiritually dead, as pictured in the girl who had died, and we are physically dying, as pictured in the woman who had the bleeding disorder. Her life was gradually ebbing away.

Because of sin, we are dead spiritually and we're dying physically. Apart from Christ, we are dead in sin, no spiritual life, no life in the family of God. Apart from Christ, we are dying in our sins. It's only a matter of time before we enter eternity in a lost and unhealed condition. Man is dead and dying apart from Christ.

Jairus' daughter was dead, but she was given life. The woman was dying, but she reached out in faith and was healed. When we come to Christ we are given eternal life, and life in the family of God. We're healed of our sin sickness and given the capacity to enjoy the abundant life that Christ promised His followers. Apart from Christ, we are dead and we are dying. In Christ, as John 10:10 says, we have life - and we have it more abundantly!

Practical Application

Don't forget the follow-up food!

In verse 43, the Lord commanded them strictly that no one should know about this miracle. That was very typical of our Lord. He did not want to draw attention to Himself through these miracles, and He didn't want crowds to follow Him only to see miracles.

He also commanded the girl's family to give her something to eat. It's a great picture of follow-up work. The Lord saves the sinner and gives eternal life, but He expects us, the family of God, to be involved in follow-up nurture and feeding of new believers. In John 21 the Lord told Peter to "*Feed my sheep*"- and we have that responsibility as well.

Let's not forget the follow-up food!