

June 20, 2021

“Healed by Faith”
Lesson 3 of Unit

Matthew 9:18-26

Intro

In this life, we have all experienced sickness. So we understand the hope and the rejoicing in being healed from that sickness. But we also live in a time where medical knowledge and treatments are as advanced as they have ever been in history. What about those who suffered illness in Jesus’ time?

Our passage today deals with two healings performed by Jesus. The first is one that might be able to be solved by today’s doctors; the second one, raising someone from the dead, is possible only for God. In both cases, Jesus shows that he cares about people, individual people. The religious practices of the Pharisees cared more about obeying the Law than about meeting the needs of people right in front of them.

There are parallel accounts of this story in Mark 5:21:43 and Luke 8:40-56.

Read Matthew 9:18-26

1. vs. 18: A synagogue leader comes to Jesus

Giving him this title indicates a man who is respected and mature in his faith in God
Luke says his name was Jairus

Though he was a religious leader, Jairus kneels before Jesus

Kneeling is always a sign of humility, recognizing the other as superior
It’s a mark of respect

Shows he thinks Jesus has authority, maybe that He is a prophet

He says that his daughter has just died; asks Jesus to come and raise her from the dead

Jesus has done many miracles up to this point in Matthew

Jairus has no doubt heard of them; may have even seen one

Jesus has not raised anyone from the dead yet in Matthew’s gospel

One possible connection:

Jesus may be a prophet; Elijah was a prophet

Elijah raised a widow’s son back to life (I Kings 17:17-24)

Maybe this prophet can do the same

2. vs. 19: Jesus goes with him, with His disciples following

There are few cases in the gospels when Jesus does not immediately move to meet the physical needs of people, especially in the case of physical pain and suffering.

The disciples, who follow, get another front-row seat to a miracle proving that Jesus is the Son of God.

3. vs. 20: A woman comes up behind Jesus and touches the edge of his cloak

The woman has had a bleeding issue for 12 years!

Loss of blood makes a person weak and susceptible to various illnesses

She has spent all she had trying to get help (Mark 5:26) and nothing worked

She is a social outcast because of her bleeding (Lev. 25)—she is unclean

The synagogue leader's daughter who has died is also 12 (Luke 8:42)

This woman's "interruption" could be seen negatively by various people

The synagogue leader who wants Jesus to hurry to raise his daughter

The disciples who see this as an intrusion on their Master's mission

4. vs. 21: This woman believes that touching Jesus' cloak will heal her

She shows faith/belief in Jesus' power to heal

The word "heal" is translated as "be saved" in other places (Matt. 10:22, 19:25)

"Saved" can refer to things other than spiritual salvation

Physical healing, like in this lesson

Political release or other kinds of liberation

This indicates to us the many ways that Jesus saves us as well

Spiritual, physical, emotional, relationships, etc

5. vs. 22: Jesus' response to the woman

He turned and looked at her

He felt power go out of himself (Mark 5:30)

He knows that she touched his cloak, and why she did it

He acknowledges her faith

She came to Jesus because she believed he could heal her

She touches his cloak in faith that she would be healed

Jesus says that her faith "healed her"

This does not mean that she did it herself

Jesus' power was necessary for the woman to be healed of this issue

Her faith was the active agent that allowed her access to Jesus' power

(Note: This doesn't mean that if someone prays for healing and doesn't get it their faith is the problem. God supplies our needs according to His will, whether there's a miracle involved or not. Sometimes we don't get what we pray for. Even Jesus didn't get his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane answered the way He wanted.)

Jesus responds to her kindly in two ways

First, he calls her daughter, a term of endearment

It also implies that Jesus is the "good father" who will meet His child's need

Second, he tells her to "take heart"

This tells her that she has done nothing wrong

She has no reason to fear Jesus' reaction to her actions

6. vs. 23: Jesus comes to the synagogue leader's house

It is very noisy / loud there

People have been hired to play pipes for the mourning

Friends/neighbors come to wail in mourning

Loud expressions of grief indicate how loved the deceased person was

7. vs. 24: Jesus tells the mourners to leave

He isn't just wanting the lack of noise

He is saying the mourners aren't needed

"The girl is not dead but asleep"

She has obviously died; Jesus means she won't stay dead

The mourners laugh at Jesus

They don't think Jesus can do anything for the girl

This is different from her father, who asked Jesus to come

8. vs. 25: Jesus brings the girl back to life

He takes her by the hand

His touch heals her like the woman who touched his cloak was healed

This action is very loving, almost parental

Like waking a child up when it's time to get up in the morning

9. vs. 26: The news of this miracle spreads

This is the outcome of all of Jesus' miracles

There is no way that people won't tell others what happened

This is likely why so many people came to Him, or met Him when he came to their towns

His reputation as a miracle-worker is well known

Application: This passage probably connects to most of us closely. Most of us know someone who has died. Most of us either know someone who has suffered from a difficult medical situation, or we ourselves have suffered from a difficult medical situation. And the sad truth about life is that if these haven't been our experiences yet, they are likely coming our way in the future.

Jesus' ability and power to perform miracles then and now doesn't guarantee us that we won't have losses or pain. But when/if those situations occur, we know that we serve a risen Lord who loves us and cares about us, and wants what is best for us. We know that our ultimate destiny is to live with Him in the perfection of a perfect heaven with a resurrected body. Let us also remember that His power extends into our lives right now. We live in the power of a new life because of His redemptive work on the cross.

Prayer: Father God, thank You that You both care about our pains and sorrows, but will also relieve them as we come to You for aid. We look forward to a perfect eternity with You, but ask that You help us to be submitted to Your will for our lives, physically as well as spiritually, while we are here. In Jesus' name, Amen.