

Jairus and the Woman with the Issue of Blood



"It was when Jesus returned that the multitudes welcomed Him for they were all waiting for Him. A great multitude gathered to Him, and He was by the sea and behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name, and when he saw Him he fell down at His feet, and worshipped Him, and begged Him to come to his house earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death! Come and lay Your hands on her that she may be healed and she will live,' for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

So Jesus arose and went with him, and so did His disciples, and great multitudes followed Him and swarmed Him, and suddenly a certain woman (who) had a flow of blood for 12 years and had suffered many things from many physicians decided to reach out and touch Him. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. (She) had spent all of her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any.

When she heard about Jesus she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched the hem of His garment, for she said, 'If only I can touch His clothes I will get well,' and immediately her flow of blood stopped. (Matthew 14:36) Immediately the fountain of her blood dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed of the suffering and Jesus, immediately knowing that power had gone out of Himself turned around in the crowd and said, 'Who touched Me? Who touched My clothes?' and He looked around to see her who had done this.

But, His disciples said to Him, 'You see the multitudes pushing You and You say, 'Who touched My clothes?'

When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, 'Master, You see the multitudes thronging and the crowd and press You and You say, 'Who touched Me?'

But Jesus said, 'Somebody touched Me for I perceived power going out from Me!'

Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden she came fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her. (She) came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. She declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

And, when He saw her He said to her, 'Be of good cheer, daughter; your

faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction,' and the woman was made well from that very hour.

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? Do not trouble the Teacher any more.'

As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken He said to the ruler of the synagogue, 'Do not be afraid. Only believe and she will be made well,' and He permitted no one to follow Him, except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue and saw an uproar, and the flute players, and the noisy crowd who wept and wailed loudly. When He came into the house all wept and mourned for her. He said to them, 'Why make this commotion and weep? Make room, for the child is not dead but merely sleeping,' and they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. 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.

Then He took the child by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cumi', which is translated, 'Little girl, I say to you arise.' Then her spirit returned and immediately she arose and walked, for she was 12 years of age and they were overcome with great amazement. Her parents were astonished but He commanded them strictly that no one should know it and said that something should be given her to eat, and the report of this went out into all the land."
(MATTHEW 9:18-26 & MARK 5:21-43 & LUKE 8:40-56)

It was the ruler of the synagogue of that particular town, not just an average person in that society, who came to seek Jesus on this occasion. Despite how all of the other religious leaders, except Nicodemus, treated Him (and Nicodemus was reluctant to be seen speaking to Jesus so he came to Him at night), Jairus humbled himself, fell at Jesus' feet, worshipped Him, and asked Him for a specific favor. He openly demonstrated complete faith that Jesus would indeed honor his request. This man obviously had determined that Jesus was his best hope to cure his daughter, even though what he had decided to do most likely would cost him his position and social standing. Nevertheless, Jairus never seemed to waver in his faith that Jesus would heal his daughter as He had so many others. Clearly, to Jairus his family was much more important than these other things and he dared to prove it quite publicly.

The (unnamed) woman had been sick for 12 years. This was a considerable length of time, sufficient to have made her become so frustrated and sorry for herself that she had begun to allow despair and unbelief in God dominate her thoughts much more than she ever still hoped to be delivered of her misery. Likewise, during that period it was very likely that two additional outside sources had contributed to undo her faith: people may have been telling her that God made her sick and that He wanted to teach her something from her suffering. Additionally, she may have been taught that He wished her to remain in agony for some "mysterious" reason that He would not reveal. However, Jesus, as God's Ambassador disproved all three of these conceptions about His Father. Additionally, since she had consulted many doctors, as well as spent all of

her money in doing so, in the past she had to have enough money to afford numerous "second" opinions. Previously she had to have been very prosperous, if not wealthy; yet even specialists not only had never been able to cure the disease, her condition actually worsened under their supervision.

Jairus' forgave the woman's interruption that was delaying Jesus at such a crucial time for his daughter. Since she was in the city illegally with her blood flow, he easily could have had her not only arrested but deported from that city. However, as we have discussed, his unforgiveness would have weakened or even completely nullified his requests to God. Jairus also sustained his faith in Jesus when He told him to, '*Only believe*'. Even when the situation had become not only dire, but also seemingly hopeless, and actually stupid and completely ineffective to keep on believing the religious ruler prevailed. Jairus had set his mind, communication, and actions on a course determined to follow God's will, not any trouble around him. So, Jesus took a moment away from the woman to remind him that although it looked outwardly that His attention had been entirely diverted, He could deal with them both at once. Jesus clearly did not want Jairus to allow any negative thoughts or emotions enter his mind and eat away at his faith in God.

Jesus treated those people at Jairus' house who scorned and actually made fun of Him by completely disregarding their unbelief. He even sent away from the situation so their skepticism could not continue to contaminate (like leaven) the faith of those who continued to hope that He still could rectify even an irreparable earthly situation. Jesus only allowed Jairus, his wife, and three of His disciples accompany Him into the room where the little girl lay dead. Jesus controlled the environment as much as was necessary for Him to be able to function with the absolute faith that He Himself would require to heal the child completely.

Jesus showed great concern for the girl's welfare after He had healed her. He directed that she be given nourishment, knowing that she probably either had not eaten, or not been able to keep anything down for a lengthy period of time. He cared about her total recovery back to full health and strength, not just a momentary miracle. Not only did He consider her parents; He took special time to direct them how they should care for her after her ordeal.

The parents seemingly merely were amazed at what Jesus was able to do. Yet the Bible did not reveal whether they believed that He was the Messiah. It would be quite interesting to see and hear their reactions, as well as their daughter's, over the next days and even years. Although Jesus commanded them strictly not to tell anyone what had transpired in the bedroom, it would have been impossible to muzzle the rest of her mourners when the girl came out and spoke to them all. Faith was not the same as astonishment, which produced amazement, but not necessarily results (*Matthew 7:28-29*). Many people in that crowd, as well as all others where Jesus performed miracles was awed by what He did, but it never got them anything but a good story to gossip about. Most people considered Jesus' actions to be spectacular, yet nothing more than a sideshow. Unfortunately, His ministry apparently never changed anything in most of their lives, except maybe temporarily.

In the entire two scenes, with great crowds of people, seemingly, only a single man and woman had enough faith in Jesus for whatever they asked Him to perform to come to pass. What was the determining factor? Remember, the Bible says, "*Faith*

comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17), so the rest of the people needed to do that more and just marvel less. It should not have been a mystery to any of these people who respected God's Law that He always had their best interests at heart, for He had proven it to them over and over throughout centuries. They immediately should have been able to recognize Him working through Jesus despite any preconceptions about how He should have behaved as a "king".