

“Lesson #3: Power over Disease and Death”

January 26, 2020

Luke 8:40-56

I. Introduction

For two years the Apostles have been with Jesus. They’ve listened to Him as He preached and often there had been question and answer sessions for them following His sermons. They have watched Him perform many miracles. What they didn’t know was that in less than 12 months they would be on their own. They didn’t know that one of the last things Jesus would say to them would be the command to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). On the other hand, as the omniscient—all-knowing God, Jesus knew all this and so He has been preparing them to be ready as Acts 1:8 says to be His “witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The events recorded in today’s Scripture are the final 2 stories in a series of lessons that began back in Luke 8:22. Each event has revealed the power of Jesus as He served others. They began as Jesus displayed His authority over the natural world when He instantly calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee with just a word. The next day He displayed His authority over supernatural forces by casting out a legion of demons from two demon-possessed men. In today’s Scripture, after arriving back in Capernaum, Jesus demonstrated His power over both disease and death. As the Almighty Creator, Jesus could heal just one part of a body or He could bring an entire body back to life. During these 3 lessons, Jesus showed compassion and love as He met and helped all kinds of people, from His own disciples to a pair of demoniacs: from a woman with a bleeding issue to a mother and father with a dead daughter. When this final lesson is completed, to the unsuspecting disciples surprise, there is going to be a final exam—turn to Luke 9:1-2.

The townspeople in the Gerasenes had “asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear” (Luke 8:37). But the crowd in Capernaum was waiting to welcome Him back with open arms. No

doubt this crowd was made up of many who were suffering from various diseases and disabilities. Hoping to be healed or entertained, they all waited eagerly for Jesus to return to His home base of operation.

II. The Main Characters

A. First Character The two main characters in the 3rd lesson had little in common. They were at opposite ends of the economic, social, and religious spectrums. The first main character was Jairus. He was “a ruler of the synagogue.” As a leader he was respected and honored. Being a synagogue ruler, Jairus was undoubtedly wealthy. Synagogue rulers were a group of men—usually between 3 and 7 men—who acted as the caretakers and administrators of synagogue life. They protected the scrolls, cared for the building, organized the synagogue school, and supervised the readers, teachers and those who prayed. It may have been in Jairus’ synagogue where Jesus cast out a demon from a man in attendance back in [Luke 4:31-37](#). Since Jesus performed many miracles in Capernaum, Jairus would have known about the awesome power of this miracle worker.

Jairus would have been a very devout Jew. He would have been part of a select group of men who met with the Pharisees and, therefore, he would have been aware of the growing hatred the religious leaders had toward Jesus. But, in spite of what the Pharisees might say, when the life of his daughter was at stake, Jairus was willing to publicly seek Jesus’ help. All that mattered to him was that he get to Jesus and bring Him to his daughter before it was too late

B. Second Character The second main character was an unnamed woman. Because of her medical problem, she was unclean—as unclean as a leper. She would have been rejected and ashamed. Being unclean, she wasn’t allowed to enter the synagogue or the temple—no one in her family could touch her or anything she touched, or they too would become unclean for a time. Luke wrote that “no one could heal her.” Mark added in [Mark 5:26](#) that “She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse.” She was bankrupt. Because of her hopeless situation, she had to slink around and, for that reason, she approached Jesus from behind.

III. The Miracles

A. The First Miracle: The woman was healed. After Jesus returned from across the lake, Jairus immediately made his way through the massive crowd to Jesus where he “**fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.**” Jairus came boldly and openly. Driven by his concern for his daughter and his faith in this Miracle worker, Jairus prostrated himself before Jesus in homage and reverence. He came in faith. Jairus must have jumped with joy when Jesus listened to him and agreed to go with him to his home.

In the crowd that followed Jairus and Jesus and His disciples was the unnamed woman “**who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.**” She was desperate—she had been ostracized by her family and friends as well as her culture. So, after hearing about Jesus, she determined to find Him, believing that He could somehow heal her. **Mark 5:28** says that “**She thought, ‘If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.’**”

She came hesitantly and secretly. Clearly breaking all the rules regarding those who were unclean, she pushed her way through the crowd and came up behind Jesus. She could have come up with any number of excuses not to do this. She could have said, “*I’m not important enough to ask Jesus for help.*” Or, “*Look, Jesus is going with Jairus, I can’t bother Him now.*” She could have argued that nothing else had helped, so why try this? But she ignored all the negatives and came by faith to Jesus.

Her faith may have been weak, a little timid and even a bit superstitious, but “**She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.**” The very moment she touched the tassel hanging on the corner of Jesus’ robe, her faith was rewarded, and her body was completely healed. What 12 years of medical appointments could not cure, the power of God healed in an instant. This was the 1st miracle: the woman was healed. She was healed instantly.

She had planned on slipping away and getting lost in the crowd, but Jesus had other plans. Probably to the discouragement of Jairus, Jesus stopped in His tracks and asked, “**Who touched me?**” Jesus knew whom He had healed but He stopped for her sake. He wanted to be more than just a healer, He wanted to be her Savior and Lord as well. She was a person who was worth taking time with and addressing.

Jesus' disciples couldn't understand Jesus' upset. From their viewpoints, there were so many people crowding Jesus that it was impossible to single out just one person who had touched Him. But Jesus and the unnamed woman knew what He was asking. She wanted to hide. How afraid she must have been—for 12 long years she had faced the fear of embarrassment and rejection by everyone she met. And now this! Perhaps she expected a scolding or worse for what she had just done. But she knew Jesus was talking to her so she “came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.”

After her testimony in front of the whole crowd of what God had done, Jesus said, “**Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.**” By calling her “**Daughter**” and telling her to “**Go in peace**,” Jesus was saying that she was healed of more than just her physical suffering. Because of her faith in Him, she was now a spiritual daughter of God and she could go in peace. She was healed physically, socially, and spiritually because of her faith in the grace, mercy, and power of Jesus Christ. Then we see . . .

B. The Second Miracle: Jairus' daughter was healed. We aren't told how long Jesus and the woman talked, but it lasted long enough so that “**someone came from the house of Jairus ... 'Your daughter is dead,' he said. 'Don't bother the teacher anymore.'**” The delay had proven deadly; Jairus' worst fear had come true. His heart must have sunk. But he didn't give up hope; **Matthew 9:18** records that Jairus said to Jesus, “**My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.**” Luke added that “**Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, 'Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.'**”

When they arrived at the house, they found that the funeral had already begun. The trip to the house had taken long enough for the paid mourners to assemble. The presence of the mourners in the home was proof that the girl was actually dead, for the family would not have called them if there had been even the slightest hope that the girl was still alive. “**All the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."** **Matthew 9:24** adds that Jesus told them, “**Go away.**”

The mourners “**laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.**” Ignoring their taunts, **Mark 5:40-41** says that Jesus “**put them all out.**” Then Jesus, “**the child's father and mother and the disciples who were**

with him, went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!')." Using the power by which He had created everything, Jesus commanded life into her. This was the 2nd miracle: Jairus' daughter was healed.

The girl was dead one moment, and alive and full of energy the next. There was no time needed for recovery or physical therapy. As soon as Jesus gave her life, she stood up in full strength and began to walk around. The girl's parents "were astonished." In the midst of the celebration of a jubilant mother and father, Jesus "told them to give her something to eat." In all the excitement, no one thought to give her something to eat. It may have been weeks or even months since her last full meal, so Jesus instructed her parents to give her some food. She may have been miraculously healed, but she still needed food.

As with previous miracles, Jesus "ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened." This miracle would be impossible to keep secret, since everyone would see the resurrected girl. Jesus' point was that He didn't want undue attention brought to what He had done. To broadcast this healing far and wide would result in curiosity seekers who would hinder his ministry or fanatics who would seek to make Him king by force. Attention would be focused on His miracles and power and not on His main purpose for coming to earth. **Turn to Luke 9:18-21.** He didn't want to be known as a healer or miracle worker—or even only as the Christ—these were true but incomplete. When He is proclaimed, it must be as the crucified and risen Savior. There is no gospel of Jesus Christ without the cross and all its meaning and the resurrection with all that it accomplished. Paul summarized it up in **1 Corinthians 2:2**, "Jesus Christ and him crucified." No one, including His disciples, would fully understand His message until all that was accomplished. He insisted on silence because the story was not finished yet. **Turn to 1 Corinthians 15:1-6.** This is the whole story!

IV. Applications

There is a common factor in these miracles: faith. There are several applications. **First, we need to have faith in Christ no matter what.** We need to trust Him and have faith in His promises no matter how we feel, no matter what others say, no matter how the circumstances may look, no matter the timing.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must

believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” When Jairus arrived home with Jesus later than he had hoped, there was chaos everywhere. But in spite of all the “nay-sayers,” Jesus raised his daughter from the dead. In **Psalm 125:1** we are told that “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.” **Isaiah 26:3** says “You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.” If you have faith in Christ, you, like Jairus, will be immovable no matter what happens around you—no matter what others say.

Second, it’s not the strength of our faith that is important but that our faith is in the strength of our Savior. The woman’s faith in doctors had accomplished absolutely nothing, but when she put her faith, small as it may have been, in Jesus, she was healed. Along with this woman we should echo Isaiah in **Isaiah 12:2**: “Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.” What is the object of your faith? Your job, your family, your good deeds—in whom or what do you trust???

Third, God’s timing is not necessarily our timing. **Isaiah 55:8** says, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the LORD.” Things aren’t always going to go the way we expect. That a miracle doesn’t occur when we want or in every situation doesn’t lessen God’s power. God’s plan may not be your plan. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego expressed the kind of faith that will carry us through any and all situations—**turn to Daniel 3:16-18**. God did rescue Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but God doesn’t always rescue His people from danger or heal every affliction—**turn to 2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. The Bible and history are full of people who weren’t delivered from hard situations—including Jesus Christ Himself—but God’s will was and will be “done on earth as it is in heaven.” We do not need to be afraid—He loves us and is always with us; **Isaiah 41:13** says, “For I am the LORD your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.” 1. Keep your faith focused on Jesus Christ—He will never fail. 2. Remember, God’s timing may not be your timing, but God’s timing is always the best.