

AUGUST 30, 2020

LESSON 12

MIRACLES OF JESUS

JAIRUS' DAUGHTER (MARK 5:22-42; LUKE 8:41-55)

During his Galilean ministry, Jesus healed two daughters back-to-back. One was a 12-year-old little girl, and the other was a grown woman who had been sick for 12 years.

Jesus had recently been in the Decapolis among Gentiles. As soon as he returned to Galilee, a great crowd gathered around him. A synagogue leader, Jairus, approached him and fell at his feet. With the voice of desperation, he pleaded on behalf of his “little daughter.” He begged Jesus to come to his house and lay his hands on her, “so that she may be made well and live.” As they started toward the house, the surrounding crowd followed closely.

Jesus Heals the First Daughter

Nestled in the crowd was a very sick woman. She had a “discharge of blood,” which had plagued her for the past 12 years of her life. In her effort to rid herself of this hemorrhage, she had spent all of her money on physicians. Instead of getting better, her condition had actually grown worse.

She was not someone who wanted to draw a lot of attention to herself. In an act of extraordinary faith, she came up behind Jesus and “touched his garment” (Mark 5:27-28). Even though Jesus did not touch her, his power healed her immediately. No one knew what had happened—except Jesus.

“Who touched me?” he asked. With the crowd pressing around them, Jesus’ disciples did not understand why he would ask such a question. Ignoring them, Jesus turned his full attention to this woman, praising her for her act of faith.

And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease” (Mark 5:34).

It’s important to note that he called her “daughter.” That’s because, in just a moment, Jesus is going to heal another daughter, Jairus’ 12-year-old little girl. These similarities help bind these two events together.

An “Ancient Cure” for a Hemorrhage

The *Talmud* [the book of Jewish law] lists no less than eleven cures for this specific illness. Some were potions, but others were superstitious folly. For example, “... [S]et her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let some one come behind and frighten her, and say, ‘Arise from thy flux.’ ”*

* R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1998), 315.

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue,

**"DO NOT FEAR,
ONLY BELIEVE."**

Mark 5:36

Peter, James and John

On at least three occasions, Jesus is accompanied by Peter, James, and John without anyone else.

- ▶ The healing of Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:37)
- ▶ The transfiguration (Mark 9:2)
- ▶ During Jesus' prayers in the Garden prior to his betrayal (Mark 14:34)

Jesus Heals the Second Daughter

As Jesus and Jairus approached Jairus' home, several began reporting that his daughter had died. This, of course, changed everything. After all, Jairus had asked Jesus to "heal" his daughter. Now, she was dead. What could possibly be done for her now? The delay caused by the other healing had cost Jairus' daughter her life.

But this did not deter Jesus in the least. Instead, he said to Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe." Like other desperate parents in similar situations (cf. John 4:49, [Lesson 2](#)), Jairus and his wife felt helpless.

Jesus took only three of his apostles inside the house with him—Peter, James and John. There was quite a commotion going on, with professional mourners "crying and wailing loudly." Jesus cut through this chaos by saying, "The child is not dead, but sleeping." He knew what their reaction would be, as their crying turned to scornful laughter. They were incredulous of Jesus' seemingly ridiculous claim.

Jesus dismissed everyone from the room, sending them outside. The only people allowed to remain were the little girl's parents and his three disciples. And then, something amazing happened!

Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement (Mark 5:41-42).

Jairus and his wife were amazed by Jesus. News of this remarkable event spread throughout Galilee, bolstering his reputation as a miracle worker.

Are You Afraid?

Like Jairus, we sometimes believe that Jesus can only do so much. As long as his daughter was still alive, Jairus believed that Jesus could heal his daughter. But revive her after she had died? No, that was simply not possible.

Similarly, we limit what we believe God can do. Paul, however, said that God is "able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think" (Eph 3:20). Maybe our prayers aren't asking for enough! Jesus frequently chided his disciples for the weakness of their small faith (Matt 17:20-21). Are we similarly limiting God's ability to work greatness in our lives, because we won't let him? Do we "not have, because [we] do not ask" in faith or with the right motives (James 4:2-3)?

Paul said, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). That same power is at work in our lives, too. Will you trust in God to help you, even when it seems impossible?