

## I. Introduction

Good morning! As we continue our study in Luke, today we come to a passage that opens with Jesus returning to Capernaum. Jesus was probably arriving by boat, and so the people would have seen Him coming and had time to gather to greet Him.

A man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, comes and pleads with Jesus to help His daughter, who is near death. By the way, if you have a chance to visit Israel, you can see the site of the Capernaum synagogue. Karen and I went in 2006 and it was a very moving experience to stand in this place where Jesus preached and did miracles. I should mention though that the ruins you see date back only to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, but the older synagogue of Jesus' time was in the same location. In any case, Jairus would have seen Jesus teach and do miracles here, so it makes sense that he is now coming to ask Jesus for help. Let's read Luke 8:40-48.



## II. Scripture Luke 8:40-48 (NIV)

[40] Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. [41] Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house [42] because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. [43] And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. [44] She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. [45] "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." [46] But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." [47] Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, 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. [48] Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

## III. Teaching

Jesus was on His way to Jairus' home on an urgent mission. But He was delayed when a woman came up behind Him and touched His cloak. The woman's body was healed instantly, but I think Jesus knew that she needed something more to bring healing to her heart. The woman was desperate for physical healing; pardon the directness, but she had basically been having a period for twelve years. This was a serious physical illness, but it was also a major social problem. According to the Law of Moses, women on their period were considered unclean (Leviticus 15:25) and were supposed to avoid contact with others. So, for twelve years, this woman had lived as a social outcast. If she had been married, she was likely divorced by this time. She was suffering in her body, but she was also probably depressed, angry, and very lonely. In Mark 5:26 we are told the additional detail that she was out of money, flat broke, because she had spent all of her money on physicians, but had not been healed.

And then she heard about Jesus, a man sent from heaven, a man who did miracles. But how could she ask Jesus for help? She was unclean; she was supposed to keep away from people. She probably thought Jesus might refuse to speak with her. And to touch Jesus would be a violation of the Law. But, she made her decision; she would risk condemnation and further rejection to have a chance at being healed. She would mingle with the crowd and approach Jesus from behind. She would touch Him secretly. No one would know. And in her heart she was sure she would be healed if she could only touch the edge of His cloak. And as soon as she touched Jesus her body was healed.

But what about her heart? If she went home with a healthy body, but without healing for her heart, she would continue to suffer. In order to receive healing for her heart, she needed to confess to Jesus what she had done and receive forgiveness. Jesus asked, **“Who touched me?”** But Jesus was not asking for information; Jesus is Lord; I am sure that Jesus already knew who had touched Him. But Jesus wanted the woman to confess what she had done so that He could give her peace. And I think Jesus also wanted the crowd to hear her story, so that she would be welcomed back into society. Even more than physical healing, the woman needed acceptance and love. She needed to know that Jesus loved her and that He would not condemn her for what she had done. And Jesus said to her, **“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”** Peace. This is what the woman really needed, peace for her troubled heart.

By the way, should we take a little detour to learn some background details? Have you ever seen an orthodox Jewish man and wondered what those little tassels he wears are all about? Well, take a look at **Deuteronomy 22:12**, **“Make tassels on the four corners of the cloak you wear.”** Here, and also in Numbers 15:38, the Israelites were commanded to wear the tassels.

Do you remember the story of when David was hiding in a cave and King Saul came into the cave? There were no lights, so it was very dark in the cave. And, in the dark, David cut off a corner of the king’s garment. And then it says, in 1 **Samuel 24:5**, **“Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.”** This always mystified me. Saul was trying to kill David, why was David feeling so guilty about cutting off a piece of Saul’s robe? Well, that piece probably included one of the tassels. And, because the wearing of the tassels was commanded by the Lord, King Saul was probably humiliated by appearing in public missing a tassel.

Our Lord Jesus was also a Jew, so we can expect that He would have worn the tassels also. And, when the woman came up behind Jesus and touched His cloak, she probably reached for one of the tassels. Jesus could have accused her of breaking the Law of Moses and of insulting Him. But Jesus’ reaction to her was grace, pure grace. As Paul says in **Romans 6:14**, **“For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.”** All who come to Jesus are under grace, not law. So we don’t need to wear any tassels on our clothes. We are free to come to Jesus boldly, trusting in His love.



#### IV. Scripture Luke 8:49-56 (NIV)

[49] While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more." [50] Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." [51] When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. [52] Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." [53] They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. [54] But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" [55] Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. [56] Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

#### V. Teaching

Can you imagine how worried Jairus was when his little twelve-year old daughter became ill? She was his only child and she was near death. Jairus could think of only one person who might be able to help, Jesus, the worker of miracles. Jairus went in search of Jesus, but at first he could not find Him. Jesus had left in a boat and He been gone for hours. And then a shout went up, someone saw the boat coming back; Jesus was returning. Jairus probably strained his eyes to watch the little boat. *“Why are you moving so slowly? Hurry, hurry!”* Jairus probably thought. Finally the boat reached shore and Jairus pressed through the crowd and

threw himself down before Jesus and made his plea for Jesus to come and help his daughter.

Finally, Jairus is on his way back home with Jesus by his side. But suddenly Jesus stopped and started talking about how someone had touched Him in the crowd. If you were Jairus, how would you feel? We are all very impatient to have Jesus meet our needs. But in the Lord's plan, sometimes the needs of others need to be met first. Have you ever pleaded with the Lord to help you with a difficult problem or an emergency situation? Has it ever seemed like the Lord was moving too slowly? Does it frustrate you when Jesus answers someone else's needs before He answers your own prayer?

Maybe Jairus was more patient, but I think most of us would have been frantic. We might have protested, "*Jesus, this woman has been sick for twelve years, you can heal her tomorrow, but right now, my daughter is dying!*" And then someone comes and says (Luke 8:49), "**Your daughter is dead. Don't bother the teacher any more.**" I don't know, but I imagine that Jairus' heart just froze like a block of ice when he heard these words. The tiny light of hope that Jairus had clung to probably flickered and went dark. But Jesus was not discouraged. **Luke 8:50, "Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."** Here is a moment of testing. When it seems like the Lord has delayed so long in answering your prayer that all hope is gone and it is too late, then the voice of the Lord speaks. "**Don't be afraid; just believe.**"

In that moment of severe testing, Jairus chose to believe the Lord. Jairus did not give up; He did not tell Jesus to go away. Instead, he chose to continue to walk with Jesus and go on home. The people who had gathered to mourn the death laughed at Jesus. But Jairus and his wife, along with Peter, James, and John, went in with Jesus to where the child was lying. And Jesus (**Luke 8:54b-55a**), "**took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up.**" Can you imagine the moment? When all hope is gone and when the people around you are laughing and mocking, then Jesus brings the miracle.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century painter, Vasiliy Polenov, imagined the scene like this. I would have liked to have found a painting of the scene ten minutes later though. I think that ten minutes later everyone would have been laughing and dancing with tears of joy running down their faces.



Today we heard about two great miracles, one of healing and one of resurrection. These miracles show Jesus' power and authority over sickness and death. These miracles show that Jesus is Lord and God. The miracles also show how Jesus loves each and every person. The woman who was healed of her bleeding had no social standing. She was considered to be unclean, a social outcast. On the other hand, Jairus was an important man, a ruler of the synagogue. But Jesus loved them both the same. The woman had faith, enough faith to reach out and touch Jesus' robe. Jairus also had faith, enough faith to leave his daughter's side and go to find Jesus. But it was not the strength of their faith that made the difference; it was Jesus, the object of their faith who brought healing and resurrection. Faith is important, but it is God who brings salvation, according to His grace and love. **Ephesians 2:8, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."**

## VI. Conclusion

Whatever your need is this morning, I want to encourage you to turn to Jesus and lay it before Him in prayer. Reach out to Jesus, seek His face, and He will provide for your needs out of His endless love and limitless grace. Nothing is too difficult for Him; and, for Him, it is never too late. Turn to Jesus, and He will hear the cry of your heart and provide the very best answer. God keeps His own schedule, and so the answer may not always come as quickly as you would like. But when you seek Jesus and pray in His Name, the loving answer of God is certain. And at the right time, Jesus will return and He will bring an end to all sickness and death and He will bring complete healing and perfect peace to every heart that trusts in Him. Jairus was watching and waiting for Jesus to return, and we also should have the same attitude, watching and waiting for when Jesus will come again. Because when Jesus comes again, He will restore all things. **Revelation 21:4** speaks of that time saying, "**He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.**" Let's pray.

## **VI. Closing Prayer**