

1. Mark gives the fullest account of Jairus' daughter and of the woman who touched Jesus' garment. Lk's account (8:40-56) is shorter than that of Mk. The account in Mt. (9:18-26) is quite brief. From Mk. we learn that the father was the ruler of a synagogue, named Jairus. That this man of high standing asked Jesus to come to his house shows both his humility and also his faith in Jesus.
2. Jesus complied with Jairus' request immediately but the interruption by the woman with the flow of blood was no accident. Jesus planned it this way. He was testing the faith of Jairus.
3. The account of the woman who suffered from an incurable hemorrhage for twelve years is fuller in Mk. and Lk. She was a believer in Jesus for Jesus commended her faith. Like Jairus she had a very serious problem and, like Jairus, she was humble. She approached Him from behind and merely wanted to touch His garment. That was not a "magic" touch because it was by faith. That is not magic. Mk. and Lk. inform us that Jesus tested her faith too. He turned around and said; "Who touched Me?" She had to confess her faith. He was not angry with her. He only meant to increase her faith by testing her.
4. Not only did Jesus heal the woman immediately but He also commended her. Here we have two cases of need: a very sick girl and a woman with an incurable disease. In both cases faith appeals to Jesus for help. And in both cases Jesus tests their faith.
5. Mk. and Lk. give us further information. They tell us that messengers came from Jairus' house and inform him that the little girl has died and therefore he should not trouble Jesus any more. Mt. compresses this by saying that Jairus told Jesus that himself. This was another test for the faith of Jairus. First there was the interruption by the hemorrhaging woman. Now the servants tell Jairus not to ask Jesus.
6. Evidently there was danger that Jairus' faith would weaken. That is why Jesus said: "Do not fear. Only believe." Jesus stops fears and encourages people who are weak in faith. That was true of Abraham (Gen. 22:1), Moses (Ex. 14:13f), David (I Sam. 17:44-47), and Jehoshaphat (II Chron. 20:1.2.12). Jesus does not break the bruised reed.
7. As Jesus approached Jairus' house He could see and hear the hired flute-players and mourners. Such mourning shows a lack of faith. That is why Jesus said: "Go away. The girl has not died but is sleeping." Jesus was displeased with the attitude of the mourners. A Christian funeral requires Gospel, not Law; Joy, not Sorrow. The Bible calls the death of a Christian a sleep. I Cor. 15:51; Jn. 11:11-13; I Thess. 4:14. Unbelievers speak of the dead as sleeping but it is a euphemism. Christians speak of death as a sleep because believers will awaken unto life eternal.
8. One moment the mourners were howling. The next moment they were laughing at what Jesus said. That shows their utter lack of faith in Jesus. Jesus was often surrounded by worldlings who laughed at Him.
9. With Jesus went Jairus, his wife, Peter, James and John, to witness the resurrection. Jesus took her by the hand. This was not a "magic" touch just as the sick woman grasping the hem of His garment was not a "magic" touch.
10. Among the Jews touching a sick person or a corpse made a person unclean. But not in the case of Jesus. His holiness was not contaminated by the sinfulness of man.
11. Jesus called the healed woman "Daughter" and the resurrected girl "Child." It shows His love for mankind especially for believers. Evidently Jairus and his family were Christians because, according to Mk. 5:35, the messengers call Jesus "the Teacher".
12. Not only does Jesus answer the prayers of believers but He also deals with them in such a way that their faith is strengthened after He tests them. Do not despise His afflictions!

Theme: DO NOT FEAR. ONLY BELIEVE.

Introduction: Mt., Mk. and Lk. give us an account of two healings which have much in common. Two humble people come to Jesus with very serious problems. In both cases Jesus tests the faith of the helpless person. But He is kind to both persons and cures them.

I-DO NOT FEAR.

Both the sick woman and Jairus had much to fear.

a-From the three accounts we know that this woman had an incurable case of hemorrhage, a woman's disease. She had been seeing doctors for twelve years for help but they could not help her. This disease left her weak and took all her money but she was not helped. She was destitute but no one could help her.

b-Jairus' twelve-year old daughter had a fatal disease. Mt. tells us that Jairus told Jesus that she was about to die. Mk. and Lk. tell us that messengers from his house told him that the girl had died. Death is the most fearsome thing known to mankind. It is the wages of sin. Rom. 6:23. Death is universal because sin is universal.

II-JESUS PREPARES THEM FOR THE HELP.

In His own way Jesus focuses their attention on Himself.

a-When Jairus asked Jesus to help him Jesus arose immediately and was on His way to Jairus' house. But He was interrupted twice. This was a trial to Jairus' faith. First Jesus was interrupted by the woman with the hemorrhage. Then He was interrupted by the messengers from Jairus' house who told Jairus not to trouble Jesus any more. This tried the faith of Jairus.

b-The diseased woman approached Jesus from the rear and touched His garment. She believed that this would heal her. But she was mistaken. The touch did not heal her. Therefore Jesus turned around and confronted her: "Who touched ME?" Why did He say that? Not to scold her but to CORRECT her. He was saying: "The TOUCH does not heal. It is only BY FAITH." At first the woman was afraid but finally she confessed everything. Jesus focused the attention of Jairus and the woman on Himself.

III-ONLY BELIEVE.

Both Jairus and the woman were told: "Only believe."

a-Jairus had to learn that only God could help him. But he thought that Jesus would have to lay His hand on his daughter to prevent death. His faith needed to be purified. Therefore Jesus allowed the interruptions. First, He was interrupted by the diseased woman. This tried Jairus' faith. Then He was interrupted by Jairus' servants who came to announce his daughter's death. At this point Jesus said: "Fear no more. Only believe." Jairus had to learn that Jesus could heal at a distance only with His Word. Furthermore, when Jesus said that the girl was only sleeping, the mourners laughed Him to scorn. They too had to learn what it meant to believe. Even Christians need to have their faith purified. They are told: "Only believe."

b-Evidently the woman did not truly believe that only the Word of Jesus could heal. She thought that she was required to touch Him in order to be healed. When she confessed that she had touched Him He said: "Daughter your FAITH has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction." Not the touch but the faith healed her.

Conclusion: Both the woman and Jairus believed in Jesus. But their faith needed purifying. God tested Abraham (Gen. 22:1-16). He tested Israel at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:10-14). Through David God tested and taught Israel. (I Sam. 17:41-47). So it is with us. Sometimes God must purify our faith before He answers our prayers. He does this for our good, only because He loves us. (Heb. 12:5-6). He chastens because of His love, not because of His anger.