



20: Our Good Shepherd (Matthew 9:18-37)

Sheep without a Shepherd are in trouble. They can wander away, starve, or be torn apart by animals that prey on them. People, like sheep, need a Good Shepherd, one who will guide, provide & protect them. Today we appreciate how compassionate Our Good Shepherd really is.

beourguest

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teachingnotes

Asking Jesus to Raise the Dead

Matthew 9:18-19 (NIV) While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

Matthew gives us the cliff notes version. Mark & Luke give more details (i.e. the man's name, the girl's age, and when the man originally approached Jesus when his daughter *was in the process of dying*, but not yet dead - Mk 5:22, Lk 8:41-42). This DAD is in *total desperation*. His daughter is deathly sick. Matthew bypasses all the details & cuts to the chase - *the young girl dies before Jesus gets to her*. First, Jesus must get through the crowd pressing so tight they almost crush Him (Mk 5:24, Lk 8:42).

Touching Jesus to Be Made Well

Matthew 9:20-21 (NIV) Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind Him and **touching the edge of His cloak**. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

This lady had been to several doctors and spent all she had trying to get well, but continued to get worse (Mk 5:26).

- During the time of a woman's menstrual period she would be considered 'unclean' (Lev 15:19). After this ceased, she would be considered 'clean' again. But this woman's continual bleeding meant that she was continuously considered *unclean* and NOT allowed to enter the local synagogue nor the temple in Jerusalem (Lev 15:25). Further, anyone who touched her would be considered 'unclean' for the rest of the day (Lev 15:19).

After over a decade of bleeding and being a social outcast, her only hope was Jesus. But rather than approach Jesus face to face and ask for healing, she **came up behind** Jesus to simply **touch the edge of his cloak** - likely referring to blue tassels worn by Jewish men in obedience to God's command (Numbers 15:37-41; Deuteronomy 22:12). Her simple goal was to push to the front of the crowd, get behind Jesus, and **touch a single tassel** hanging from his cloak.

> *She didn't think that touching Jesus would make Him UNCLEAN; she believed that just touching Jesus' clothes would make her CLEAN!*

Mark 5:29-30 (NIV) **Immediately her bleeding stopped** and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

After Jesus scans the crowd for the culprit, the woman steps up and confesses that it was her (Mk 5:32-33; Lk 8:46-47).

Matthew 9:22 (NIV) Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, **daughter,**" he said, "**your faith has healed you.**" And the woman was healed at that moment.

2 important insights:

1. The word translated **daughter** can be used of a literal daughter or an affectionate term for a lady.¹ This woman leaves Jesus with a healing she had never known after leaving other doctors in the previous 12 years.
 2. This is **NOT faith in faith**. It wasn't a HUGE mystical process she went through. She simply believed that JESUS had the power to heal her. **She had faith** that **what no one else could do...JESUS could do**. *She had FAITH IN HIM.*
- ② Do you feel like YOUR life is over. Do you wonder how someone as 'unclean' as you can approach the Holy One? How will Jesus respond to you?

✓ Just like He responded to this woman...**"Take heart daughter/son, your faith [in ME] has healed you!"**

BIG TRUTH: Our Good Shepherd transforms those who Trust Him

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 110.

- Trusting Jesus restored more than her body - it restored her relationships. After 12 years, she could experience the privilege of touch again. She could go back to the synagogue and enter the Temple courts.
- **Trusting Jesus STILL transforms people.** He can still heal the body, as we pray for others, but He is most interested in **healing the soul** & restoring relationships.

Luke 8:49-50 (NIV) While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore." Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "**Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.**"

Matthew 9:23-24 (NIV) When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

These people had seen death. The girl hadn't been breathing for a long time, enough time that they had gathered mourners around the house, including **people playing pipes** (flutes). The synagogue ruler was an important person, and the people showed up to mourn with the family and get ready for the funeral procession that would happen later that same day.

Asleep? HAH! What Jesus said was laughable.

› But **Jesus isn't laughing.** What He is about to do is NO JOKE! He wants the mourners to get gone. No reason to mourn over a girl who is about to WAKE UP from her SLEEP!

- The early church began to refer to death *IN JESUS* as being *ASLEEP* (1 Cor 15:6; 1 Thes 4:14-15)...because they trusted that what happened to this girl, would happen to them!

Jesus Raises the Dead!

Luke 8:51 (NIV) 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.

Matthew 9:25-26 (NIV) After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand [Mark adds Jesus said, Talitha Koum - little girl I say to you, get up - Mk 5:41], and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

This synagogue ruler asked & believed that Jesus could help his daughter...even raise her from the dead! He and his wife saw in the most powerful way, that...**Our Good Shepherd transforms those who Trust Him!**

Jesus Heals the Blind!

Matthew 9:27-31 (NIV) As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, **Son of David!**" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then **he touched their eyes** and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; and **their sight was restored.** Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

Jesus Casts Out Another Demon!

Matthew 9:32-33 (NIV) While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when **the demon was driven out**, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

The people saw Jesus as their *GOOD SHEPHERD* who radically transformed those who trusted in Him.

The Devil Made Him Do It?

Matthew 9:34 (NIV) But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

It's amazing how 2 people can see the same thing and interpret it so differently.

- The people see Jesus as their GOOD SHEPHERD taking care of His flock.
- The Pharisees think Jesus is the devil in disguise!

The Compassion of Our Good Shepherd

Matthew 9:35-36 (NIV) Jesus went through all the towns and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, **proclaiming the good news** of the kingdom and **healing every disease and sickness.** When He saw the crowds, **He had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

This is **OUR GOOD SHEPHERD**, the One who came to earth to do more than heal broken bodies, but to restore lost souls.

- Jesus is STILL in business - having **compassion** for people who are wandering without hope or purpose.
- Jesus is still changing lives - guiding us, providing for us, & protecting us, because **He's OUR GOOD SHEPHERD.**

Our Good Shepherd transforms those who Trust Him

❓ **Are you in a place of desperation?**

➡ **TRUST JESUS.** ASK Jesus for His help! Stop trying to do everything in your limited strength & limited wisdom.

Followers of Jesus Follow His Example

Matthew 9:37-38 (NIV) Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus *SHOWED* His disciples how much these people need a shepherd. Jesus doesn't just want his disciples to PRAY, but to go be the *answer* to that prayer!

- 🕒 **PRAY & GO TELL OTHERS.** Who are YOU telling? When's the last time you spoke about the Lord answering prayer, what you read in Scripture, or shared the gospel with someone?

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- * Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- * Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Steve & Debbie Bass (850-673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. **Read Luke 8:43-47, Lev.15:25, & Mark 5:26.** How was this woman's bleeding impacting her life & why was she so desperate to simply touch the clothes of Jesus? What is she trusting?
2. **Read Luke 8:48.** How did Jesus respond to this lady & how would this healing impact more than her body?
3. **Read Luke 8:49-51 & Matthew 9:23-26.** Why did the people laugh at Jesus? Why didn't the *parents* or the *disciples* laugh at Jesus? What kind of thoughts, faces, and discussions might have happened after the 12 year old ruined the funeral plans & came back to life?
4. Our **BIG TRUTH** today was: **Our Good Shepherd transforms those who Trust Him.** Share a current-day story about how trusting Jesus transforms people.
5. **Read Matthew 9:32-34.** How is it possible that people saw Jesus so differently? Is this still the same case today? Explain your answer.
6. **Read Matthew 9:35-36.** What characteristic did Jesus exemplify (starts with a "C")? What are some ways that followers of Jesus can follow His example by extending this care for others?
7. **Read Matthew 9:37-38.** Do you think Jesus expected His disciples to do more than only PRAY? Explain your answer.
8. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? What does God want YOU to do with what we studied today?
9. Share prayer needs and pray for one another.