
Turn in your Bibles with me to Matthew chapter 9.

We continue to make our way through Matthew chapter 8 and 9 in our sermon series: "The Power of Jesus." What we've seen over the last couple of months is: Jesus performing miracle after miracle giving proof that He is who He says He is. He is the Son of God in the flesh!

The Apostle Matthew chronicles in his gospel these Messianic evidences and shows us Jesus power over sickness...over disease, over nature, over the supernatural world... And He stunned the Jews when He showed them He had the power to forgive sins. Matthew became so convinced of this fact that he left his tax collector booth and his rich lifestyle to follow Jesus... And it's from the pen of Matthew...a changed man...that we'll see today that Jesus reveals He has power over the thing that no mortal can conquer: DEATH.

Follow along with me in Matthew 9, beginning in verse 14 as we look at "Jesus' Power Over Death."

Matthew 9:18-26

18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." **19** And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. **20** And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, **21** for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." **22** Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. **23** And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, **24** he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. **25** But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. **26** And the report of this went through all that district.

Church family, we all know we're living in a dying world where all of us face the inevitability of death. We're all deteriorating humans in a deteriorating world. And that's been the case since the fall of humankind in the Garden of Eden. We are all living under the curse of death and death will eventually come to us all. That is the inevitable fact of being human and only the Bible can explain that fact...evolution, nor any other philosophy or theory can explain why man dies. We die because of the curse of sin. And Jesus Christ hated that fact and that's why He broke up every funeral He encountered.

Try as you might...you will never find a funeral message preached by Jesus. Why? Because Jesus raised from the dead every person He encountered who had died. He would do that for a 12-year old girl, for a widow's son who lived in the town of Nain and his dear friend Lazarus of Bethany. Jesus hated funerals and he broke up every single one He encountered because the Prince of Life...crushes death every time!

You see, Jesus came to deliver us from that which mankind cannot overcome: death. When Jesus encountered death it hurt Him to the core because He could see how we (His creation) hurts and the pain and suffering that comes with death. You see...it was never God's plan for us to suffer in death. Adam and Eve...if they'd chosen not to have eaten the forbidden fruit would have lived

forever. But, because of their sin...we are all doomed with the curse of death.

Today we are going to see the first resurrection Jesus ever performed and it's an astounding miracle to say the least...but, before we get to see that miracle...we get to see Jesus perform another miracle. In essence we get to see a miracle within a miracle. Two for the price of one and it's beautiful! And I mean beautiful!

Now let's set the scene.

Jesus is staying in Peter's house in Capernaum, and the disciples of John the Baptist had just left and all of a sudden a synagogue ruler shows up on the doorstep because his daughter is dying. Matthew doesn't tell us the synagogue ruler's name, but Mark does.

Turn to Mark chapter 5, verse 22. As you do so...I'll remind you that once again we'll see these miracles from Mark's perspective (which is actually the Apostle Peter's perspective...Mark just wrote down what Peter told him)...

Mark 5:22

22 Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet.

We learn the man's name is Jairus and we see that he's a synagogue ruler. Now if you've been with us throughout this series, you might remember we've already talked about the synagogue in Capernaum. Here's a picture of it. I stood there in 2007.



It was amazing standing where Jesus stood. Surreal to say the least...

Now remember with me, we've learned over past messages that a synagogue is the "church-house" if you will...for the Jews. It's where they went to church on Saturdays...their Sabbath. And here's the interesting thing about this: synagogue rules, as we've studied, were by and large not on the side of Jesus...because He was destroying their system of false teaching about the Scriptures and all the added rules and regulations of the Pharisees that aren't even found in the Scripture. Yet, here comes this man of that system of religion to Jesus and even though he's a man of great influence and prominence, what does he do? Look at it again:

Mark 5:22

22 Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet.

He fell at his feet...

Do you know what this synagogue ruler was doing? He was worshiping Jesus. The word Matthew used is the Greek word: proskuneo. And you've heard that word before because that's what the

leper did after Jesus came off the mountain preaching the Sermon on the Mount and it's what the man filled with demons named: Legion did... They "proskyneo..." They worshipped Jesus.

Let me tell you something...that could have cost this man his job. The Jewish religious elite would never stand for one of their leaders bowing to Jesus. So, why did the man do it?

One word will describe why he did it FOLKS...

DESPERATION!

He was desperate. He didn't care what others would say about him or what would happen to him. He had to get to Jesus, because he knows that Jesus is his only hope to save his daughter.

Hey do you care what people think of you more than you care what Jesus thinks? Are you so peer driven by what your friends think that you are embarrassed about being a Christian or calling yourself a Jesus follower? This man was desperate and he falls on his face and...verse 23 says...he...

Mark 5:23

23 implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."

Listen...I believe the synagogue ruler already knew Jesus. Remember when the elders of the synagogue in Capernaum went to Jesus on behalf of the Roman Centurion, whose servant boy was at the point of death? Remember it was that Roman Centurion that built the synagogue for the town in the first place. I believe this ruler in that synagogue was part of that group who went to Jesus and he saw that Jesus simply spoke the word and the servant boy was healed. And he remembered that... And so now that his daughter...by the way...Luke tells us in Luke 8:42 that **it's his only child**...and she's dying...and he has nowhere else to turn.

Let me say this: So what if he loses his job. Would you give up your job for your child? Sure you would! So would I...in a heartbeat! And so he begs Jesus to come and **do you know what else** that man showed in addition to his desperation?

Again...one word will describe it:

FAITH.

He showed faith when he said to Jesus... "Come lay your hands on her, so THAT SHE MAY BE MADE WELL AND LIVE." He was saying... "I know you can do this...I've seen it! Please do it for my little girl." What did Jesus do? **See verse 24.**

Mark 5:24

24 And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.

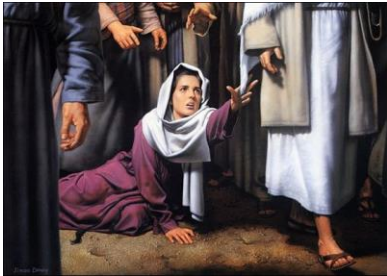
So, of He goes... Jesus is going to heal this little girl...just like he's healed the leper, the servant boy, Peter's mother-in-law, the demon possessed men, the paralyzed man. No problem, right? Wrong... Jesus gets stopped dead in his tracks...

Turn back to Matthew 9.

Matthew 9:20

20 And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment.

I always think it's good to try to show you pictures...because a picture speaks a THOUSAND words. Take a look at how this scene might have unfolded...



Can you see the desperation on her face? I believe that's a good depiction of how this lady might have felt. Or perhaps this picture might be even better...



Yeah...that does it. This woman is sick! She's been bleeding and hemorrhaging for 12 years! Mark tells us in Mark 5 and Luke in chapter 8 that she had spent every dime she had on doctors and nobody could heal her and she was only getting worse.

Hey folks...what one word describes her situation?

DESPERATION! There it is again! She's desperate and has nowhere else to go. She's at the end of her rope and she knows she's probably going to die. And so she's desperate. In fact, she's so desperate that she doesn't care that according to Jewish law she's supposed to be crying out the same words a leper does, "Unclean, unclean." Because according to Leviticus 15:25, a woman was considered ceremonially unclean in her condition and if you touched her you would become unclean as well and you, like her, couldn't go to the synagogue to worship. She was totally ostracized by society much like a leper and much like a tax collector. She couldn't even go to the synagogue.

So in desperation... she throws caution to the wind and says nothing and bumps into all of those people and finally gets to Jesus and drops down to her knees and reaches out with what little strength she has left and grabs just the hem of His garment. She almost missed Him...but, she got the hem.

Matthew tells us in verse 21...

Matthew 9:21

21 for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well."

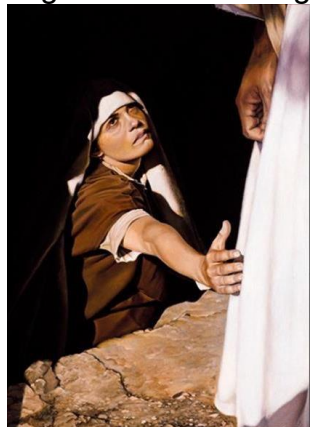
I LOVE how this is described in Mark. **Turn back there with me to Mark 5, verse 28.** Mark gives a bit more detail than Matthew.

Mark 5:28-33

28 For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." 29 And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. 30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" 31 And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" 32 And he looked around to see who had done it. 33 But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.

This is so powerful! This lady had tried everything to be healed and she was only getting worse. I read that in the first century...women who were bleeding like this usually had a fibroid tumor. Today that's commonly healed with surgery. Not back then. So, they tried ever gimmick known to man. I read that in the Talmud, which is the Jewish book of laws and codes for living that you could try 11 different kinds of cure like tonics and herbs.

Get this...one of the supposed remedies was that you had to carry the ashes of an ostrich egg in a linen bag in the summer and transfer them to a cotton bag in the winter. How superstitious is that! Believe me...after 12 years...I'm sure this lady had tried it all... Can you see with me how she might have looked again...



Let's be honest...it's a bit superstitious what she does to Jesus. She believes if she touches His clothes, she'll be healed. Not exactly what one would call robust faith. But, church listen...she'd been beaten into submission by this bleeding and the cultural and societal rejection and shunning that she had experienced for 12 years! This is all she could muster! **And aren't you glad...it was enough.** It wasn't perfect faith...but, Jesus never told us we had to have perfect faith...He just said it had to be a little bit of faith...the size of a grain of a mustard seed. And that might be all you've got today. Just a little faith...that's enough...that's enough... How do we know? **Look back at Matthew 9.**

Matthew 9:22

22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

She was healed instantly! She didn't ask for it... **It just happened because of her faith...** And Jesus called her daughter! Did you see that? Just like He called the man, "son," who was healed of paralysis in Peter's home... Jesus publicly called her daughter...she's part of the family.

You see, Church, we must confess with our mouths "publicly" the Lord Jesus. Listen...of course...Jesus knew who touched Him. He didn't ask, "Who touched me," because he didn't know. He wanted to see if this lady would publicly confess faith in Him. And she did.

Church, we've got to stop being embarrassed for Jesus. So many won't stand for Him today. They're more afraid of what their friends will think than what Jesus will think. Listen, if your friends don't like the fact that you're a Christian and you have Biblical standards...then you need some new friends...because they'll end up taking you down. And it all begins tomorrow. I'm praying for you: CHRISTIAN STUDENTS...stand for Jesus. Jesus said if we will not acknowledge Him before men...He will not acknowledge us before His father in heaven. You see we must CONFESS with our mouths the Lord Jesus (Romans 10:10 says) in order to be saved. Don't be embarrassed tomorrow...stand!

Well, everything's great, right! The lady is healed and now it's on to Jairus' daughter. Jesus will knock that out and all will be well. Uh...wait a minute...some people are coming... **Turn to Luke chapter 8** and we'll see a game-changer has happened while Jesus has been interrupted...

Yes, Jesus was interrupted... He could have told the woman He didn't have time for her, but He didn't. He had compassion on her. It was divine interruption and you and I often have them too...and might not even recognize them as such. A divine interruption...or to us...an inconvenience in our day. Somebody needs a moment of your time. Someone who has nothing to give you in return. They can do nothing for you...they're a hindrance to your day... Or could they be a divine interruption that you might minister to them? Who might be an inconvenience in your life...but, you are the only "Jesus" they can actually reach out and touch. Look at Luke 8:49.

Luke 8:49

49 While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more."

Folks, they've waited too long! Can you imagine how Jairus felt? Can you almost feel his dread as Jesus stopped to talk to this woman and this whole scene unfolded? I mean everyone knew this woman. They knew her voice...she'd been crying out unclean, unclean for HOW LONG was it? 12 years! They've waited too long...

Oh yeah...did I tell you how old the little girl was? I didn't. **Look up in verse 42.**

Luke 8:42a

for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

Oh my goodness! The year this little girl was born was when the lady started bleeding. Wow! What a coincidence. No! No coincidences here. There are no coincidences with God...just divine instances. But it's too late! She's dead. You see, I guess they assumed Jesus' power was limited

to just healing sickness and disease. "Don't bother the Teacher," they said. **Not on your life!** Jesus is now going to show His power over DEATH! He's going to exhibit the fact that He is God in the flesh and He will prove it by overcoming death!

Jesus turns to Jairus and says:

Luke 8:50

50 But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."

That little phrase "Do not fear...only believe," literally in the Greek is translated: "Don't be afraid...keep on believing." Jesus is saying to Jairus, "Come on...you had faith when you came to me, you weren't afraid as a ruler in power and prominence to risk it all...don't stop now...you just saw what I did for the lady who was bleeding for 12 years...hey... don't you stop believing just because the circumstances got worse... Keep on believing!"

Listen, church family... faith is the antidote for fear. Fear will cripple you and paralyze you if you give in to it. You can't have fear and faith in your heart at the same time. You will have one or the other. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid...keep on believing...and she will be well."

But she's dead Jesus...it's no use!

Listen...listen to me...Jesus specializes in the impossible. There is nothing too hard for God...because He's God! Don't ever forget that! I don't care how bad it looks! God is omnipotent...all powerful! Nothing is too hard for Him! **AND Somebody** needed to be reminded of that fact today. Well there you go! ☺

So, they get to the house and what's happening? Turn back to Matthew 9 and we'll see.

Matthew 9:23

23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion.

Oh man...the funeral has already started...and we know that's true because the flute players are there. You see, our funerals are quiet and somber...but, not theirs. They are loud and get this...according to Jewish custom...you had to hire professional wailers! You paid people to come in to your home and wail and shriek and holler and scream and weep! And they would wear old clothes because part of their job was to tear their clothes and rend their garments. And get this...even if you were poor, the Jewish Talmud required you had to provide 2 flute players and one mourner or you were being disrespectful to the dead.

You see...Jairus knew how sick his little girl was and so he had the professionals on standby even as he left to come to Jesus... And since this guy was the leader in the synagogue...and a very wealthy man at that... I'm sure they were loaded down tons of mourners...because he could afford it.

And get this...according to the Talmud...these professional mourners would have been told about all those in your family who had previously died and they would bring up their names. Oh...grandpa...oh grandma...oh Uncle Bill and Aunt Lucy! Isn't that awful! And Jesus shows up and says, "Get out of here!"

Matthew 9:24

24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

They laughed in His face. The Greek word is ka-ta-ge-la-ō. It even sounds like laughter! The word is used as a superior laughs over someone who is stupid. It's very condescending. And you can tell they are paid professionals...because their weeping turned to scornful laughing...in a snap of the fingers!

You know, unbelief laughs at God's Word, but faith grabs hold of it. Even today unbelief laughs at God's Word (the Bible), but faith grabs hold of it! And listen, church family...when you grab hold of faith in God's word...you will unleash and experience the power of God, but you will be ridiculed by the world.

Verse 25 tells us...Jesus clears out all of these people and I can I tell you this Church...eventually...one day...all unbelievers will be cast away from the presence of Jesus. Luke 8:51 records it this way...

Luke 8:51

51 And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.

This is the first mention in Scripture of the inner group of three of the disciples: Peter, James and John. They are going to see this miracle as well as the parents. Can you see the scene...Jairus runs into the room where his wife is holding his 12-year-old daughter...his ONLY CHILD.



Can you feel the agony? Jairus doesn't know what to say...

But, Jesus enters the room. The Prince of Peace. The Great Physician. The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords has just entered the room and Mark's Gospel says ...

Mark 5:41-42

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

How did that look...maybe like this artist has tried to depict it...



Isn't that beautiful!! She's alive!! She's alive! And she walked out and all of those doubters were astonished! Death had been conquered!

Death... is your greatest problem. And it's also mine! Because we are all inevitably...most assuredly...without question...100% guaranteed...going to die! And the only person who can help you escape eternal death is Jesus Christ and there are two words that will need to describe you if you want to escape eternal death and be raised to life. What are those two words:

Desperation and Faith. The same two words that described the lady and Jairus.

Listen carefully... If you today...will exhibit **desperation** in your condition, just like the woman and just like Jairus and you will throw caution to the wind...not worrying about what anyone will think or say and if you will show **faith** like they did...little as it might have been...even if it's been 12 long years in the waiting ... You too can see the power of God exhibited in your life today...just like the woman and just like Jairus!
