

# Jesus Heals a Woman and Raises a Girl

**THEOLOGICAL THEME:** Jesus' power overcomes the shame of impurity and the curse of death.

Through His Word, from Genesis to Revelation, we see the omnipotence of God—in creating the world, in parting the Red Sea, in sending manna from heaven, in raising the dead, and even in Jesus walking on water. God is all-powerful.

Tragically, many of us have become so familiar with God that we've lost the sense of "wow" when we encounter Jesus in the Gospels. We read the stories of Jesus performing miracle after miracle, and yet we often remain unmoved, unimpressed. We are far too accustomed to the power of God in these stories.

What we need is an awakening to the overwhelming sense of the power of God. We need to experience awe and wonder when we encounter the reality of who God is. We need to be renewed in our understanding that no problem is too big for Him.

 What happens to our relationship with God when we are no longer in awe of Him or His power?

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 Why is awe and wonder important for our relationship with God?

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In this session we continue our study through the miracles of Jesus. In His healing of a sick woman and His raising of Jairus' daughter, we see the power of God on display—a power that overcomes sickness, shame, and even death. As Christians, we minister to those who suffer from sickness and shame with faith that God is mighty to save and to heal.

## 1. Trust in Jesus' power to take away sickness (Mark 5:21-29).

*<sup>21</sup> And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. <sup>22</sup> Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and 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." <sup>24</sup> And he went with him.*

*<sup>25</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup> She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup> For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." <sup>29</sup> And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.*

Let's start with the first person in need—the man desperate for Jesus to heal his daughter. Perhaps you've felt that sense of desperation after receiving news from the doctor that turned your world upside down: "You have cancer" or "Your mother has only a short period of time left" or "I'm sorry, there is nothing we can do for your child but make him comfortable." Whatever the case might be, you suddenly felt desperate due to a situation that caused everything in your world to come crashing down around you.

Jairus was desperate because he knew that without the power of God, he would lose his daughter. The woman who touched Jesus was desperate as well. For 12 years, she had suffered from an illness that afflicted her in more ways than one. She'd suffered physically from the illness, financially after seeing countless doctors, and socially because of the shameful nature of her disease. Like Jairus, she knew that apart from Jesus, her situation was hopeless.

List several signs in the story that the characters are desperate.

What other actions do you associate with desperation?

Jairus and the woman knew whom to turn to. They fixed their hopes on Jesus. Perhaps that should be the first truth we recognize when we feel desperate: *We should fix our eyes on Jesus*. Neither of these characters believed that their hope was in themselves. They would not have espoused the aberrant teaching today that says healing only comes to those who have sufficient faith. They didn't have faith in their faith but faith in the Savior. Both individuals focused their faith in the right place.

Second, we see *their faith was urgent and exclusive*. Reading her story, we do not get the sense that this woman simply laid all her options out on the table—this doctor, that method, this procedure, and, oh yeah, Jesus! She did not view Jesus as one of many options. She was at the end of her rope, and she saw Jesus as her only hope. The same was true for the synagogue leader, who knelt at Jesus' feet and begged Him to lay His healing hands on his daughter who was on her deathbed.

### Voices from the Church

“Christian faith is not an idea or thesis, not principally and at heart. Rather, faith is most properly a living encounter, a life with and before the Lord of Heaven and earth.”<sup>1</sup>

—Katherine Sonderegger

Third, we see *their faith was persistent*. In both cases, we notice their sense of determination. The woman kept thinking, “If only I touch His garment!” She knew Jesus had the power to heal her and do something no doctor could accomplish. Both she and Jairus were tenacious in their pursuit of Jesus. Like an NFL running back churning his legs, unwilling to be denied a first down, this woman elbowed her way through the crowd—dead set on getting to Jesus no matter what anyone else said.

Finally, *their faith was expectant*. Jairus believed Jesus could heal his daughter. The woman truly believed she would be made well. “I *will* get well,” said the woman, not “I *might*.”



Which of the four characteristics of desperate faith do you struggle with the most? Why?

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## 2. Trust in Jesus' power to take away the shame of impurity (Mark 5:30-34).

*<sup>30</sup> And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?”<sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, ‘Who touched me?’”<sup>32</sup> And he looked around to see who had done it.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”*

The story of this woman reminds us of the plight of every person apart from Christ. We may not be ceremonially or ritually impure like this woman was, but we are all impure in our hearts. Sin destroys. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, they unleashed sickness and death into the world. No area of life escapes the effects of their fall into sin. One of those effects is sickness and disease.



In what ways does the physical plight of this woman resemble the spiritual plight of sinners who are impure in thought and deed?

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Because of her disease, this woman was subject to ridicule and shame. Her rights as a citizen were impacted. Now, picture the scene. This woman, rendered unclean by her condition, was trying to get to the Messiah—the only spotless, innocent, pure Man ever to live. According to the law, her uncleanness should have kept her from approaching Jesus. But there was something about this Man that she had heard about: He had power to heal. And that’s just what He did.

This woman’s story provides a picture of our spiritual state. Because of our sin, we are all impure and estranged from God. Because of our sin, we usually shrink back from approaching Him.

Not so for us as Christians. You and I can have confidence before God because of Jesus. Shame no longer controls us. Shame no longer has the last word. Shame no longer drives us to the darkness but is blinded by the light.



How does the gospel change the way we view shamefulness?

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How does the work of Christ remove shame?

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## 99 Essential Christian Doctrines

### 41. *Guilt and Shame*

Guilt refers to the objective status of someone being found guilty for a wrong committed as well as the incurring of punishment that comes with it (Matt. 5:21-22; Jas. 2:10). Shame is the emotional pain that comes from sinful actions. Scripture teaches that human beings are guilty in an objective sense and also feel the weight of shame in a subjective sense.

### 3. Trust in Jesus' power to take away the curse of death (Mark 5:35-43).



<sup>35</sup> While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"<sup>36</sup> But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."<sup>37</sup> And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.<sup>38</sup> They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.<sup>39</sup> And when he had entered, he said to them,

"Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping."

<sup>40</sup> And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.<sup>41</sup> Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."<sup>42</sup> And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement.<sup>43</sup> And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Have you ever been there—waiting on God when the unthinkable happens? Can you relate with this anxious father? Perhaps it was the loss of a job or receiving news you desperately didn't want to hear or perhaps it was the loss of a loved one just like Jairus. No matter what has transpired, the One in whom we trust has defeated death, and we need not fear its curse. There are several reasons why we can and should trust Jesus in these situations.

First, we trust Jesus because of **His power**. Death is no match for the power of Christ—it does not get the final word. Why else do we pray to the Lord on behalf of those who are on their deathbed? Because that's what we are supposed to do? No. We seek the face of God because we are sure of His sovereign ability to heal.

Second, we trust Jesus because of **His presence**.

Jesus was with Jairus every step of the way, giving you and I an example of His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Josh. 1:5). No matter what you are facing today, by faith lay hold of the promise that Jesus is with you.

Third, we trust Jesus because of **His pity**.

Compassion never filled a man more than it filled the life of Christ. Jesus is able to sympathize with our weakness in every way (Heb. 4:15). He knew exactly what Jairus was feeling.



### Voices from Church History

“I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene, and wonder how He could love me, a sinner condemned unclean.”<sup>2</sup>

—Charles Gabriel  
(1856-1932)



Why is it sometimes so difficult to wait on God?

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What does this reveal about our heart toward God’s timing in our life?

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Lastly, we trust Jesus because of **His promise**. He spoke to Jairus and said, “Do not fear, only believe.” Jesus knew that He was going to display His extraordinary power in the everyday life of this family, but He was telling them to trust Him right now, without being able to see the end. He knew that the curse of death was not going to remain with this family on that day.

God often does not show us the entire staircase, but He is faithful to show us the next step in order to climb it. And as far as death goes, we have no need to fear; for the Christian, it is simply a pathway to eternity with Jesus. The curse of death, then, should not scare us but should drive us to mission. It should motivate us to move. May the reality of the lostness of this world thrust you and me forward to share in the mission of Christ, both locally and globally.



Why do Christians focus on relieving both temporal and eternal suffering?

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What are the dangers of only focusing on one and not the other?

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## Conclusion

Our all-powerful God has created everything we can see, taste, touch, and smell. He has also demonstrated His power through His Son, Jesus, through the many miracles Jesus performed while He was on the earth. From these miracles, we know that God's power spans the physical realm: the woman with the issue of blood was healed after painfully enduring her sickness for 12 years. Jesus merely spoke, and she was healed of her disease.

In addition to the physical realm, we see that God's power also spans the spiritual realm. In the case of the bleeding woman, her impurity was covered by His purity. And in Jairus' family, Jesus overcame the curse of death with life. Christ has done the same for you and me. He has taken away our shame and put our guilt on Himself, freeing us to proclaim to a lost and dying world the riches of Christ.

If this is our God, then what should your response be the next time you face a challenge in life? God says that response should be trust in Him.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** The woman who pushed her way into the crowd around Jesus was ceremonially unclean, thereby rendering all who touched her unclean. When she touched Jesus, however, her illness was healed. Jesus' purity was more powerful than her impurity. In this story, we see a glimpse of what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross. Through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, our shame is removed, our guilt is absolved, and God begins His work of making us pure and holy like His Son.

# HIS MISSION, YOUR MISSION

**MISSIONAL APPLICATION:** God calls us to proclaim Jesus as the Savior who takes away our shame and makes us pure and holy in God's sight.

1. What are some ways we can minister to the sick and those in the hospital while proclaiming Jesus as the Savior?

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2. How can we minister to those in the grip of shame with the gospel of Jesus?

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3. What can we do to love people in Jesus' name as they are facing death for themselves or with a loved one?

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