

Theme: Prioritizing faith

Text: Luke 8:40-56

Beloved in Christ, I would like to share with you some thoughts on the passage we just heard. Herein is an interwoven account of two miracles triggered by the faith of two believers, the raising of Jairus' daughter to life, and the cure of the woman that had an issue of blood, as Jesus was going in a crowd to Jairus' house.

Before any miracle happens, we observe a *public address* made to Christ by a *ruler of the synagogue*, named *Jairus*, on behalf of his little daughter, that was very ill, and, in the apprehension of all about here, *lay dying*. This address was very humble, and reverent, yet a very persistent appeal. Jairus, though a *ruler*, *fell at Jesus' feet*, as owning Him to be a ruler *above* him. Jairus did these things because of his zeal for Christ and his belief in Him.

We are also made aware of a *secret application or supplication* made to Christ by a woman ill of a *bloody issue*, which had been the consumption of her body and the consumption of her purse too; for *she had spent all her living upon physicians*, and was never the better, [Luke 8:43](#). The nature of her disease was such that she did not care to make a public complaint of it, and therefore she took this opportunity of coming to Christ *in a crowd*, and the more people were present the more likely she thought it was that she should be *concealed*. Her *faith* was very *strong*; for she doubted not but that by the *touch* of the *hem of His garment*, she should derive from Him healing virtue sufficient for her relief, looking upon Him to be such a full fountain of mercies that she should *steal* a cure and not *miss it*.

Faith is not merely in words and therefore doesn't reside solely in the heart, or mind, but must be activated through actions. As the Bible says, "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works". – [James 2:17,18](#). The passage indicates faith

triggered through actions. The lady with the hemorrhage didn't just sit idle, she pressed on in the midst of a crowd, despite the unpleasant stench, etc. to implement one act, touching the hem of Jesus' garment.

Christ takes notice that there is a cure wrought: *Some power or virtue is gone out of me*, [Luke 8:46](#). He speaks of it here, not in a way of *complaint*, as if He was hereby either *weakened* or *wronged*, but in a way of *complacency*. I believe it was His delight that *virtue* was gone out of Him to do any good, and He did not grudge it to the meanest. Essentially, this act (the going out of the virtue *from Him*) didn't deplete the power or virtue *in Him* for He is an *overflowing* fountain. Following the woman owning up, Christ, the great physician, confirms her cure, and sends her away with the comfort of it: *Be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole*, [Luke 8:48](#).

It is important to stress that having faith in abundance or prioritizing our faith only sometimes leads to the outcome (healing, breakthrough, etc.) we so desire. Our wishes must align with God's will and ultimately, it is the will of God that prevails for believers. In these situations, the answers to our prayers might delay in manifesting, or perhaps, might never be answered. As you notice, the woman with the hemorrhage had lived with the situation for years until God's calendar, will and purpose gave way to her healing.

The renowned man of God, Smith Wigglesworth, who raised more than a dozen people from the dead, had this signature words: **dare to believe and be bold**. Why? Because **faith is audacious** - It overturns the status quo and rewrites laws traditionally impassable. Faith is a ferocious force: it's a bold ignition of acts that draw its strength from the finished works of Christ. It is the gift of God ([Ephesians 2:8](#)) given to every believer in Christ. Like many other gifts, you must choose to use it. Crises caged Jairus - Look at what happened next: "But when Jesus heard

it, He answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole” ([Luke 8:50](#)).

You see, Jesus knew that humankind had been given an inner substance that had the power to change natural circumstances - faith! The human will is a powerful thing. [Romans 12:3](#) tells us that “...God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.” Faith is given to everyone, and it will work for anyone with the will to use its power.

Again [Hebrews 11:1](#) tells us what faith is: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Verse two tells us what it has done, “For by it the elders obtained a good report.” Essentially, faith will do the same for you. It will bring forth a good report in your life - even if the message at the moment seems terrible!

Jairus’ report was terrible - it just can’t get much worse than death. Notice that the scripture doesn’t tell us how Jairus felt upon hearing the messenger’s bad news, but, as a father, I can imagine that his heart sank. Jesus, on the other hand, knew the power of faith and reacted immediately to the messenger’s awful news by giving Jairus a strong command: “Jairus, fear not! Believe! She’s going to be made whole!”

Jesus responded quickly - that is an important point. Jairus didn’t allow the fear to settle in. Instead, Jairus immediately began acting on Jesus’ words. Why was Jesus so quick to command Jairus not to fear? I believe He knew that a person’s natural reaction to death is fear, and all forms of fear are destructive. Anxiety is a form of fear, and so is despondency and hopelessness. Those are all natural reactions to bad news, but they don’t help anyone, and Jairus needs help.

Jesus knew that if Jairus wanted to see his daughter smiling and laughing again, he would have to immediately stop fear from gripping his emotions and mind. He

would have to go against his feelings, regardless of how natural they were, because fear is faith working in reverse.

Jesus refused to speak death. I believe it's because Jesus knew (Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. - [Proverbs 18:21](#)) Also, notice that Jesus didn't just wave a magic wand (like what we see in Harry Potter movies) to heal the girl. He told Jairus to get involved when He commanded him to do those three things: 1) Do not fear, 2) Only believe, and 3) Know your daughter will be made whole.

Jairus had a choice to make - he prioritized faith instead of unbelief. How you react when trying times happen in your life determines the outcome. When bad news comes, you also have a choice about how you will respond. You can choose to accept it, or you can replace the news with God's Word. Dare to believe today and redefine your life with excellent possibilities.

There are situations that are already dead or appear to be dying or even hopeless in your life like Jairus' issue. Others encounter bad circumstances that overstay their welcome like the woman with the issue of blood. Despite these glooming predicaments, God is asking us to still put our faith in Him and trust that He would come through for us at His appointed time. What's important is to hold on and keep prioritizing our faith as we (are not privy/don't know) God's calendar. Even Job, who was described as a man of integrity and abhorred sin, didn't know the calendar of God when his riches, children, possessions, etc. were all lost in a twinkle of a moment. In the lion's den in a foreign land, Babylon, Daniel, a non-conformist, wasn't sure of the moment God will rescue him. Neither did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they were thrown into a fiery furnace.

The point I am echoing is that do not give up on faith but continue to have the hope that God will intervene in your life. Be like Jairus and emulate the woman with the issue of blood/ hemorrhage. Always see an opportunity or a breakthrough

even when there seems to be no way out. In His time, He makes things beautiful
– He will give you beauty for ashes 🙏👉

Finally, in my opinion, this story reemphasizes that your life is as beautiful as your faith! May He guide us to stand firm and trigger our faith when needed? Remain blessed, and Hallelujah to God for His grace and measure of faith He has given us! Amen!