

ONE NEED UPON ANOTHER

Mark 5:21-43

Intro: (Read the text.)

This comes in a series of miracles that were performed by the Lord Jesus:

1) The stilling of the storm in the last part of chapter 4.

2) The deliverance of the demon-possessed man in 5:1-20.

And now we come to two that are woven together: the healing of a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years, and the daughter of the ruler of a synagogue who was sick and died before the Lord could get to her.

All of these were the effect of sin. This is one point that ties them all together. It should make us hate sin, and long for the day when sin and sickness will be no more.

All of these works of the Lord were done on cases that were humanly impossible. (Explain.)

In the first miracle the Lord rebuked the disciples because they had “no faith.” In the second, faith was not an issue. The Lord came upon the demon-possessed man, and delivered him. But it seems clear that the man came to faith in the Lord. In these third and fourth miracles faith definitely was an issue. There was a story behind both of these cases which is not given to us, a story which made the ruler of the synagogue and the woman with the issue of blood.

These last two probably illustrate what had happened to the Lord Jesus on many occasions – He would start to help one, and then be interrupted by someone else. In fact, it seems that this was probably the reason that Mark and Matthew and Luke chose to tell these particular incidents. It ought to remind us of the case of the illness of Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha. Only in that case, the Lord deliberately delayed going to the home of these three people that He loved until Lazarus had died. Time is very, very important when one is seriously ill. The point I am making is this: if the Lord had not been delayed by the sick woman, He might have gotten to the home of the little girl before she died. There must have been a frantic feeling in the heart of Jairus when the Lord was delayed.

When we think of this woman who had been sick for twelve years, we are probably talking about a woman who really looked sick. She probably had lost a lot of weight. She was weakened, terribly weakened by her ordeal, and it was nothing short of amazing that she was able to go where the Lord Jesus was. But she probably was strengthened by the possibility that the Lord could heal her. She had no money to pay Him. She had spent all that she trying to get well, but the doctors of her day had not been able to help her. And so we must assume that over those twelve years that she had been sick, she gradually got worse and worse. But she was so convinced that the Lord could help her, that she didn't feel that she had to call upon Him, just touch His garment. And when she did, she was healed immediately – and she knew it!

She felt that she could touch the Lord's clothing, and then not even have to bother Him at all. But she was terrified when He said, "Who touched my clothes?" This shows that there was a physical effect upon the Lord as He healed people. Fearing what the Lord's question might mean, she came trembling, and fell down before Him, telling Him all that she had done. And you know, she did not tell Him one thing that He did not already know. His eyes are on the just and the unjust. He sees when we sin, and He sees when we trust Him. "All things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do" (Heb. 4:13).

The words of the Lord Jesus to her dispelled her fears, and brought her peace. When the Lord said, "Thy faith hath made thee whole," He was recognizing that she had found not only healing for her body, but healing for her soul. And it seems that her soul was healed first.

But then, while the Lord was speaking to the woman, somebody came from Jairus' home, giving the bad news which he had feared would come: "Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?" He felt that it was too late to do anything for the little twelve year old who had been at the point of death which her father left home to go get the Lord to come to heal her. Now it seemed too late.

But again it was the Lord's word that comforted him: "Be not afraid, only believe."

Why did the Lord take Peter, James, and John with Him. It was, as with the case on the mount of transfiguration that they might be a threefold witness to what had happened. And this mention of the three gives some

credence to the fact that Mark got most of his information from the Apostle Peter.

When the Lord said in Aramaic, Talitha cumi, it can be translated as “Little girl, arise.” Or some grammarians say that it means, “Little lamb, arise.” This gives us some insight into where this little twelve year old girl stood with the Lord. So at least the father and his little girl had true saving faith. But we must recognize that before the little girl could hear, the Lord had already restored her to life.

The lady in this story with the issue of blood had gotten sick the same year that this little girl was born. The Lord had told the former demon possessed man to tell what had happened to him; here he charged the parents at least, not to tell. The Lord was not seeking notoriety by doing things that had never been done before. The message of the Gospel is not to be spread that way. It is enough for us to see that in this case we see how circumstances, and obviously the work of the Spirit of God, were sufficient to bring at least these three to the Savior.

So all of the glory is to be given to the Savior. He came to do the Father’s will, and to redeem those whom the Father had given to Him.