

**Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Ignored or understood!**

**Scripture: Luke 8:40-56**



Today's scripture tells the story of healing two broken daughters. If you have ever faced brokenness in your life, then Jesus is speaking to you.

### **THE SCARS WE CARRY**

We all carry scars – they may be from cancer or sickness, abuse, grief, or the loss of a loved one. They may be from a broken family or the lack of a father or mother. Our scars may be due to genetic or chemical challenges we were born with. Our scars may come from things we have done that we regret.

**And yet, joy is still possible. And Jesus will show us how.**

The first daughter is a woman who has tried to survive through 12 years of a crushing sickness. The second daughter is a 12-year-old facing a tragic life-threatening illness. We see a father named Jairus who does everything he can to fight the threat to his daughter. We see a woman all alone and Jesus steps in and becomes a father where there was none.

And here is Jesus who brings healing and life to a broken and hurting world. All throughout Luke, Jesus counters evil, transforms people, casts out evil spirits, heals life-threatening illnesses, and will overcome death at the cross and His resurrection. Jesus is willing to do whatever it takes to bring

healing and life to this world, up to and including the laying down of his own life; and it will cost Him His life.

### **WHAT HAPPENED?**

Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue in Capernaum, had no doubt witnessed the miracles of Jesus casting out evil spirits, healing the man with the withered hand and later the healing of Peter's mother-in-law. Then we see a woman who had a bleeding disease for 12 years, which had taken all her strength and all her money.

Like Jairus she was helpless to effect a change in her circumstances. Both were helpless to find a cure, and both were seeking out Jesus for their answer. Both came to Christ in belief and desperation and Jesus, in love and compassion did what only He could do.

**Have you ever found yourself at the place of desperation?**

**Have you ever felt helpless to effect change yourself?**

**Have you ever tried to help matters by listening to other's advice and like the woman only found your situation worse?**

Jairus as a leader would have had people come to him for solutions. But his circumstances have suddenly changed. Instead of being in control, his world was spinning out of control and there was nothing he could do about it.

He fell at Jesus' feet in humility and brokenness. He set aside his dignity, to request that Jesus, come and deal with that

brokenness. In coming to Jesus, Jairus, this leader, is recognizing that Jesus can do what great men cannot, that the power of God is in Jesus to do mighty things.

The age of 12 in Jewish culture meant his daughter is on the threshold of becoming a woman and at this age, the parents began to make marriage contracts for their daughters. But she is dying, she may never give life, her life may be snuffed out.

As Jesus was on His way, He recognises that someone touched Him and took some of His healing away. Why didn't the woman throw herself before Jesus in the same way that Jairus did? Because she was alone and had no father to plead for her or protect her. Being labelled unclean meant she had to hide this fact from everyone.

She could not participate in regular society, go to the Temple and worship and anyone who touched her would be considered unclean. She could not go and be with people, and people could not go and be with her. No one could hold her hand. No one could give her a hug. I love giving and receiving hugs. She had not felt this kind of love for at least 12 years.

She was persistent though – this was her last chance to be healed as she had tried everything else. She forces herself through the crowd until she is close to Jesus.

**Have you felt alone that there was no one there to plead for you or shield you?**

### **Is it significant that the number 12 is in this passage?**

Luke, the doctor, is holding up two stories of twelve years, two daughters, bleeding, side-by-side. This girl has been growing and developing for twelve years to become a woman, to be ready for marriage, to have children, all for it to stop here.

By contrast, for the past twelve years, this other woman has only bled, and bled, and bled. We can imagine that she is probably not married, otherwise her husband would probably be there pleading for her the way Jairus plead for his daughter. But no one was there for her. She is alone.

To have life, in the case of the woman, that is being taken away, that is fading out. To be able to give life, in the case of the girl, coming of age to give birth, that is being taken away.

### **OUR OWN ANXIETIES**

We can draw parallels between these two accounts and anxieties in our own lives. Many of us have felt the anguish of something important ripped away from us, like this girl who was being taken away at the beginning of her adult life.

Many of us have felt the anguish of not being able to give, not being able to contribute what others take for granted, like this woman, who was unable to experience life in the same way as those around her.

### **WHO TOUCHED ME?**

Like all God's questions, this question only makes sense to one person: the person to which it is addressed. When God asks us

questions, they may make no sense to anybody else. What we hear, what we need, is personal to us. For us, what we hear is God saying, “I am talking to you!” the woman knew that she was no longer hidden, no longer alone.

## **COMPASSION**

Jesus speaks firmly, but with compassion. Jesus recognizes the woman touched Him out of her desperation and faith. It was her faith in His power that healed her. Jesus was not done with the healing process, He wanted to heal more than just her body. He is about to heal her relationally, emotionally, and spiritually.

**“DAUGHTER”** This is the only place in the Bible where Jesus calls somebody “daughter.” All three times this account is told: in Matthew 9, Mark 5, and Luke 8, Jesus calls her daughter.

She has no father, so Jesus calls her by the name she longed to hear: “daughter.” Perhaps even more than physical healing, she needed to hear from a father, her father. Jesus steps in and does what no one else can. He takes on the role of Jairus in her life. He sees the threat and steps up to shield her from it. In that moment, she is no longer alone. She hears the voice, perhaps for the first time in her life, of a man who is safe, strong, good, and loves her. A father.

Yes, she is clean. Yes, now she can go to the Temple and worship. Yes, now she can brush up against anyone without dirtying them. But this also means so much more. She has a father.

**“YOU ARE COMPLETE”** your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

Jesus tells her to go in “shalom”, peace and wholeness. The image of Shalom is that of a fabric that is intricately woven together. This is much more than the absence of conflict, but completeness. Jesus is saying that she is complete.

If this woman is single, Jesus is saying that she is complete.

If this woman is without children, Jesus is saying that she is complete.

If this woman is in a difficult marriage, Jesus is saying that she is complete and whole.

What made her complete? Whole? Nothing other than reaching out and touching Jesus. She did not need anything else to be complete.

### **Many of us feel incomplete in our lives.**

Are you single? Jesus says that you can be complete as you are.

Are you without children? Jesus says that you can be complete as you are.

Are you in a difficult marriage? Jesus is saying that you can be complete even within that difficult circumstance.

We often compare ourselves to others and feel incomplete. It is easy to look at someone else's circumstance and try to find wholeness in that. But that is not what made this woman whole! Jesus said to her that she was complete when she reached out to Jesus in faith.

**That offer stands for us today as well.**

You might say, I have done some evil things. Or, I have had some evil things done to me. I am too broken and dirty to ever be made whole and clean. I may think that I cannot be fixed, that even God does not have the power to fix me. That is simply not true.

**1 Corinthians 6:11 says this: “But you were washed, you were sanctified (set apart as a child of God), you were justified (declared innocent), in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our Lord.”**

This word runs deep. You can be washed clean! You can be set apart as a son or daughter of God! You can be declared innocent! Because of what Christ did for you on the cross.

Then Jairus is told – don’t bother Jesus anymore – your daughter is dead. Did Jairus judge Jesus – if You just kept going, if You had not been so irresponsible, delaying spending time with this other woman along the way, this tragedy could have been avoided.

**Do you ever say things like that: If only God had moved in my life, then that tragedy would have been avoided. I, or my family, would have been spared the pain.**

God can do more than you or I think He can. God is more interested in the small details of our lives than we think He is.

Jesus was doing what no father can ever do. Jesus is the ultimate Father. And His resurrection is different. Jesus’ resurrection changes our life today.

I invite you to consider these three responses, asking God to speak to you the way Jesus spoke to this woman.

### **1) HONESTLY ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR BROKENNESS**

Where have I been bleeding for twelve years? Where are my wounds? What are the things that are draining the life out of me just like this woman?

Some of us deal with physical brokenness. Some of us deal with sexual brokenness. Some of us deal with broken relationships: with friends or family or neighbours. Some of us deal with Spiritual brokenness. We know that we are separated from God. Maybe we have never taken that step of reaching out to Jesus in faith. We all have brokenness.

### **2) REACH OUT TO JESUS IN YOUR BROKENNESS**

Do I desire the kind of wholeness, completeness, that Jesus offered the woman when He said “daughter, your faith has healed you.” At that moment, she became a daughter of God. This is why Christ came to this earth, died, and rose again. So that He can call you son or daughter and so we can call Him “Papa.” I would like to invite you to reach out to Jesus, just like this woman did.

### **3) HAVE FAITH THAT JESUS CAN HEAL YOUR BROKENNESS AND FILL YOU WITH JOY**

Yes, we carry scars. But joy is still possible! Not only can Jesus heal physically, but more importantly, when we reach out to Him in faith, He calls us son, He calls us daughter. We are no longer alone. We are loved. We are valued. We are cherished. We become a part of His kingdom.