

THE HEALING GOSPEL

Mark 5:21-36



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we looked at the stories of the healing of Jairus' daughter, and the healing of the bleeding woman. The book of Mark is written very tersely, mainly because papyrus was so expensive to purchase back then. And the author intended that the listeners would fill in the blanks for the details when listening to these stories. He uses a particular technique (the markan sandwich) to highlight the story of the bleeding woman. In this passage, we see the story start out with Jairus, move to the bleeding woman, and then back to Jairus. The reason for this technique is because both stories complement each other and have the same main points and we are supposed to compare and contrast the two stories.

We see Jairus publicly ask Jesus for healing for his daughter and Jesus agrees to go with him, but in the middle of their journey, he pauses because he felt someone touch him and power that left him. As we compare and contrast the two stories, we see how Jairus and the bleeding woman are both in need of healing, but whereas Jairus comes very publicly, the bleeding woman comes very privately. We see that Jairus is a respected man at the center of the religious society as a synagogue leader. On the other hand, the bleeding woman has been a social outcast, isolated because of her uncleanness from her constant bleeding. Jairus' daughter is seen and known and prioritized by everyone, but this bleeding woman would have been the last in line, perhaps even seen by some as cursed.

And in the midst of these two stories, we see Jesus pausing and prioritizing the bleeding woman. He will eventually go on to raise Jairus' daughter from the dead and heal her, but He wants the bleeding woman to know that He wants to heal her in every respect. He wants to heal her physically, spiritually, socially, emotionally. He wants her to know that she can be free from all of the suffering, not just the bleeding, but of everything she suffered over the past 12 years. In a way, because she was not allowed to go to the temple, she would have figured that God did not know her, but Jesus is telling her that even if no one has known her these past 12 years, He has known her and seen her precisely because she is His daughter. As we look around, many are hurting and no one knows. But our Father in Heaven sees us and knows us and invites us to come to Him to be healed and restored.



OUTLINE

1

JAIRUS THE SYNAGOGUE LEADER

Jairus comes to Jesus with a very public ask - his daughter is sick and needs healing. He is a well respected man at the center of the religious society. He is well known by all and seen by everyone. He has priority in the society that he is a part of. If anyone can ask Jesus for healing, it's this man. Jesus agrees to go with him to heal his daughter.

2

THE BLEEDING WOMAN

The bleeding woman comes to Jesus with a very private ask - she knows she's not allowed to touch anyone, much less a holy rabbi like Jesus. And yet, her faith drives her to touch his clothes in faith that she would be healed. She comes in private, but her healing is made public, because Jesus wants to heal her not just physically, but socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Even though she is a "nobody" in society - unseen by everyone for the past 12 years, Jesus wants her to know that He sees her and has known her pain these past 12 years and wants her to be free of it.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Has Jesus or God ever called you out? How did you respond? What was God's response to yours?

2

Where are you hurting? How long have you kept it hidden?

3

Have you ever felt overlooked or unseen?

4

What are you hiding that you are ashamed to share?

5

Is there anything keeping you from trusting Jesus with your shame, hurt or hidden truth?



BIG IDEA

We have a God who sees us and knows us intimately. In our pain, our grief, our sickness, He sees us and wants to heal us and restore us. It doesn't matter if we are a 'somebody' or a 'nobody' in the eyes of society. We are His sons and daughters whom He loves deeply and dearly. Where are you hurting or grieving? What is something that you would never tell anybody else? Come to the loving arms of the Father and be free.