

Bible e-Study Women of the New Testament #4

Jairus' daughter and the woman on the way.

“Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”²⁴ So Jesus went with him.” Mark 5:23b-24

NUGGET – Jairus, a synagogue ruler had a daughter near death and he came, in faith, to Jesus to ask Him to come. Jairus had faith in Jesus that if only He would come and put His hands on her, she would live. And Jesus does as He is asked to do, Jesus goes.

As Jesus goes, He knows the woman with the flow of blood will come to Him and be healed. ([Mt 9:18-22](#)) If He had not gone and simply just given the verbal order for Jairus' daughter's healing, as He had done at other times, then this woman would not also have been healed.

Jesus knows when He needs to go and when to simply say the word. We can learn from this. We can learn to go when those who need us call and trust that God will use that going for His purposes. Yes, there are times when speaking alone is enough, but not always. Like today's verse teaches us, we need to go *to* those who are hurting and seeking our help.

There are those who need our help because of sickness, injury or infirmity. They may not have a Jairus' to speak for them. That is something we can do. We can be that Jairus for them. We can:

- Go to Jesus in prayer for them
- Take them to a doctor's appointment
- Get them food or medicine.

We need to remember that as Jesus came at Jairus' request to heal His daughter, and so on the way healed another, Jesus also comes with us. We simply ask Him and He comes to help us, to meet with us, to heal us. He will always be there for us, in fact even when we forget to ask He is there with us. When He died on the cross for our healing from sin He did that for us without our asking. But what we learn from Jairus is that Jesus is *willing* to come to us as we ask Him to.

The practical side of this is, no matter what comes our way; we do not face it on our own. That is so easy to hear but can be so difficult to realize when we're in a moment of need or crisis with another. That's why we need the Jairus' of the Bible; to remind us that Jesus has come and will always to come to us.

APPLICATION – There are two things that can be applied to our lives from this:

1. When you have the opportunity to help someone with their physical needs and cares, *you* are reminded that Jesus has done this first for you. Yes it may cost you some time, effort, driving or inconvenience, but in that is our reminder of the greater cost that Jesus paid in His first coming to this earth for us.
2. When facing a situation that seems to require your physical presence, rather than just a verbal conversation, remember that on the way Jesus may guide you to a 'detour' that adds to your opportunity to serve Him and you neighbor. Not all diversions, even in service to God, always go as we think they should, and that may be for a reason we can't foresee. Remember God directs our path. ([Psalm 23:3](#) & [Psalm 119:35](#))

PRAY – Thank God for sending Jesus with Jairus, for Jairus' example of faith and trust, and for the woman who also shows us that Jesus takes time for all who seek Him.

*Going Deeper together. We meet in the **Fellowship Hall** during the Education Hour for discussion and prayer with all those who're able to come. If you're not able to make it Sunday, please feel free to e-mail me with your comments or questions so that we can have the benefit of sharing them together.*

Peace in Christ, Pastor Tom Rhodes



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GOING DEEPER

Today's New Testament women, Jairus' daughter and the woman with the flow of blood seem to represent opposites. On the one hand you have the little girl and the other is a grown woman. But an interesting thing to note is that while Jairus refers to his girl as his daughter, in all three gospel accounts, Jesus refers to the grown woman also as 'daughter'.

The image of 'daughter' is one of family, closeness and protection. Jairus comes to Jesus in faith on behalf of his dead daughter and Jesus responds by going as requested in order that this little one be restored to her family and father. But on the way there is another 'daughter' who needs restoration as well. And as we said in the nugget, Jesus knows this and it can be seen as a part of His reason for going.

The three synoptic gospels all have a record of this event and each has its own details. Mark ([5:21-43](#)) and Luke ([8:40-56](#)) give us the most information regarding both the girl and the woman. They both indicate that Jairus' daughter died as Jesus was still on the way, while Matthew ([9:18-26](#)) indicates that Jairus knew his daughter was already dead. The point is that for Jairus, Jesus was the only hope of his daughter's survival and he acted on that hope. Jairus came and sought out his only source of help. What might have made this choice difficult for Jairus – and what does that teach us?

This story reminds me of the centurion who had a slave that was sick to the point of death and when he came to ask Jesus' help, Jesus started to go with him. But that man spoke of Jesus authority and his trust that Jesus need only speak the word and healing would happen. Jesus responded with amazement at the man's faith, and spoke the word of healing. ([Mt 8:5-13](#)) But notice that Jesus was willing to go the home of that particular gentile.

In today's account Jesus is willing to go the home of the Jewish leader to accomplish the same thing. Jesus is always willing to go wherever He is asked and needed. He does not discriminate between Jew or non-Jew, man or woman. He does not withhold His help when asked based on race or gender. He goes where He is asked. There is comfort in that for us. How does what Jesus does also challenge us as well as comfort us?

Looking specifically at the girl for a moment... Jesus sends the mourners away and takes only the parents and Peter, James and John into the room according the Luke and Mark accounts. I believe that those disciples were chosen for the purpose of having 3 witnesses. The mother and father would be witnesses, but they would be so emotional distraught that the details of whatever happened would be lost in the joy of having their daughter restored to them.

Jesus wants to have a clear testimony to His actions. He takes His three most trusted disciples with Him and shows them clearly Who He is. If they will accept what He does with her, now, then later when He rises from the dead, they will have a context for understanding. So what do we learn from the context of today's story taking into the account the various details? (And what do those differences teach us about how the gospels were written?) What can we take away from this account?

And finally looking at the woman with the flow of blood as Jesus was on the way to Jairus' daughter. We learn quite a bit about her. She suffered for many years. Her affliction would have ostracized her from society. Like Jairus, she was desperate for Jesus' help. But unlike Jairus, she came secretly. She did not want attention, she wanted only healing.

Her faith, her trust, was the same as Jairus'. But her need was different. To draw attention to herself would only point out her shame and different-ness in society. She needed healing in order to be acceptable again. So when she touched Jesus garment and knew she was healed, she knew also that she was being restored to society. What does that say to us about how we go about Sharing the Gospel with various people?

When Jesus stopped and sought out whom it was that was healed He was not trying to embarrass her. He was playing a role in her restoration as well as her healing. In putting her in the spotlight, there would be those who knew her situation there to observe this taking place. By Jesus referring to her as daughter, He was showing her love and according her a renewed place in the family of society. Sometimes there is more to healing than simple physical restoration.

Jesus knows this. Jesus knows how we are, how we act and how we treat one another. In His healing this woman, He provided her relief from her ailment. He didn't need to stop and point her out to others for her healing to be complete. No, He needed to stop for her *restoration* to be complete. Jesus does this also for us. He does not simply heal us, He restores us. How might that speak to our healing from sin and death by Jesus blood?

In His cross and His resurrection He provides all that we need, both healing *and* restoration. There is for us a lesson in that as we seek to share Christ with others. They need to hear not only that Jesus has saved them, like He has us, but that they are now connected to us. We are made daughters and sons of God. We are drawn into His family through the healing we receive through the washing of regeneration in our baptism into Him.

What then do others need from us as they come to Christ? What can we do to show them what Christ has shown this woman, that not only they are healed, but also they are now restored to a new relationship?

Continued Peace to you in Christ, Pastor Rhodes.