

A diseased woman healed and Jairus' daughter
raised to life

Matthew 9 vv.18-19

Mark 5 vv.21-24

Luke 8 vv.40-42

Look, in one of the houses in Capernaum there lies, on a bed, a twelve year old girl. That child is ill, very seriously ill, yes, she is dying. Her flushed colour shows that she has a high fever. Her breathing is agitated and laboured. Now and then she groans softly. Restlessly she turns her head on the pillow which is damp with perspiration. Her hands pass helplessly across the bed clothes.

By her bedside, with tear stained eyes, sits the mother. The heart of this woman is torn with anxiety and suffering. If only she could help her child, if only she could do something for her dear one.

The father too stands close by. Nervously he wrings his hands together, for neither can he help his child.

In painful silence these parents sit by the deathbed of their only child.

The father is Jairus, evidently a Pharisee. He is the ruler of the ~~syn~~ synagogue, or the man then who leads the order of worship in the synagogue. He was honoured and esteemed in Capernaum. He had but one child, a girl. With what love these parents will have surrounded their daughter.

And now that girl is dying. At any moment now she can breathe her last. Then death will without scruple, have torn that child from their hearts. Is there then no remedy? ... Nowhere? ... Must he watch helplessly while his only daughter dies? ...

Then Jairus hears that Jesus has just returned to the city. Only last evening He had sailed away with His disciples to the other side of the lake.

As you already know, that night a storm raged and the following morning the Lord healed the mad Gadarene. But because the herd of two thousand swine had run violently into the sea and been drowned, the Gadarenes had prayed Him to go away again. They had besought Him to depart.

Without argument the Lord Jesus had sailed away with His disciples. Once more they crossed the lake and now they step ashore in Capernaum. A large multitude is waiting for Him there. The residents of Capernaum had gone to the shore of Lake Gennesaret in the hope that Jesus would shortly return, for Luke writes: "The people gladly received Him: for they were all waiting for

Him."

Suddenly a man approaches with rapid strides. The crowd makes room for him respectfully, for all know who he is. He is the leader of the Synagogue, whom they see every Sabbath. Scarcely has Jairus come by Jesus than he falls on his knees before the great Prophet of Nazareth.

Jairus has left the deathbed of his daughter. When he understood that Jesus had come again to Capernaum he had decided to go to Jesus as the only means of assistance.

Probably he had also been present, when the elders of the Jews had asked Jesus if He would heal the Roman Centurion's servant. We told you this story in Chapter 26. Can you still remember it? Then it had been asked on behalf of another.

Now, however he is resolved to call in the help of Jesus for his child. Look at him hurrying anxiously through the streets of Capernaum towards the shores of the lake. He must hurry. At any moment his daughter can die, and then it will be too late.

There he lies at the feet of Jesus. That is something he would probably never have done, but since it now concerns the life of his only child, he does it willingly.

Jairus beseeches Jesus to come with him immediately. Just read what he says: "My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live."

He does indeed believe then, that Jesus has the power to heal his child, but ... Jesus must lay His hands upon her.

How different from the Roman centurion. He had said: "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." That Roman centurion believed that Jesus could save his servant from death by speaking just one word. Probably Jairus had heard this too. But here the leader of the synagogue asks if Jesus will go with him. The faith of the centurion was greater than the faith of Jairus.

At once Jesus consents to the request of the anxious father, for he stands up and goes with him. The multitude have seen and heard all this, and they go too. They must be present and see this. All try to keep as close to Jesus as possible, for then they will have the very best sight of what will take place shortly at Jairus' house. They press in upon Him.

Yes, Luke says that the people thronged Him. From all sides they push against Him.

There goes the group towards the house of Jairus. The father, who, torn with anxiety that it will perhaps be too late, would gladly have run. Progress is much too slow for him.

Suddenly Jesus stands still. Why? ... Well, something has happened.

Do you want to know what it is that has happened) ... Listen then!

Matthew 9 vv.20-22

Mark 5 vv 25-34

Luke 8 vv 43-48

In our thoughts we will just go back twelve years. At about the same time that in the house of Jairus a baby girl was born, a woman in Capernaum also fell ill. She went to the doctor. He gave her some medicine, but that medicine did her no good. She remained ~~sick~~^{ill}. Time after time she went to the physicians. But whatever she tried, it did not help. Her disease would not heal. She spent~~er~~ all her money on medicines, but instead of improving she got steadily worse.

Years slowly passed by. Oh, at first the woman probably had hope that the doctor would heal her. What a disappointment for her when she realised that nothing helped. She sacrifices all in the hope of improvement. But all is in vain. Now she has been diseased for twelve years.

Some think that Jesus on the way to the house of Jairus, came right past her home.

The woman also has heard a great deal about Jesus lately. The many miracles which are taking place everywhere, have not remained hidden from her.

Why then does she not go to Him? ... Why does she not ask Him for healing? ... Does she not believe in His power? ... Oh, yes, indeed she does, but ...

She dares not go to Jesus, for she is ashamed of her illness. Furthermore because of her disease she is unclean, and therefore she is not allowed to walk among the people. She certainly believes that Jesus has the power to cure her of her terrible disease, but she dares not visit the great Prophet.

Now, on this day, she notices that Jesus is evidently about to come past her dwelling with a great multitude of people. Will she let this wonderful

opportunity slip by? She is in a great conflict. If she goes to Him, she will have to tell all. Then the many Jews in Capernaum will hear it too. No, she dare not. And yet ... and yet

Look, there she is leaving her home. She presses through the crowd and thus comes to a spot just behind the Lord Jesus. She then bends down quickly and touches the hem of Jesus' garment. But, why does she do that? ...

Well, she believes for certain that Jesus can even help her, she believes so certainly in the almighty power of this Prophet, that she has no doubt of being healed, though she touch but the hem, the lower edge of His garment. In that sure faith she bows down. In that faith her trembling fingers touch Jesus' garment and ... she is healed. She feels it in her body.

What the doctors had tried in vain for twelve years to do, takes place here in a moment.

Quietly the woman draws back and tries to depart un-noticed. Nobody has suspected anything, nobody has noticed her.

And then, to her great amazement, Jesus stands still all at once and asks: "Who touched Me?"

She still remains silent however, though her heart beats turbulently. She has done something which was not allowed. She, unclean as she was, had pressed her way through the throng. Furthermore she had touched the great Prophet. Oh, He will probably be very angry with her, for those who were touched by an unclean person, would themselves become unclean. That is why she keeps quiet still.

Peter looks at his Master in amazement and says: "Master, the multitude ~~throng~~ throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, who touched Me?"

What Peter says is true. He is right. The crowd is touching the Lord Jesus continuously.

But the Saviour answers: "Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me."

Oh, Jesus knows who has touched Him, for He is all-knowing. He could have pointed to her and said: "Thou hast done this". He does not say that however, no, the woman herself must tell what has happened and why she has done it - that God may be glorified. That is why she must come to the fore. Perhaps He looked at her.

Chapter 9
The woman sees that she can no longer remain hidden. Blushing and trembling she comes to Jesus and says that it was she.

Then she tells all. She relates how she became ill twelve years ago; how she had given all her money to the doctors and for medicines; how everything had been in vain. Instead of getting better, she had become steadily worse. But then she also tells how that through touching Jesus' garment she had been healed immediately.

Look, there she stands, with downcast eyes in front of Jesus. Will He be angry with her? ... Will she get a rebuke from Him? ...

No the outcome is far better than she expects. For those who truly take refuge in Jesus, the outcome is always for their good. The saviour answers kindly: "Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

Oh, how thankful that woman was. She was not put to shame.

Children, may you too be enabled to confess your sins humbly before God. May you pray with weeping, for mercy. How happy you would be if the Lord were to say to you also: "Be of good comfort!"

What great faith that woman possessed. She demanded not that Jesus should lay His hands upon her, she believed that one touch of His garment was sufficient to heal. What an example!

Matthew 9 vv.23-26.

Mark 5 vv.35-43.

Luke 8 vv.49-56.

One among that multitude however stands there, who is consumed by impatience and fear. That one man is Jairus. He was pleased that Jesus had consented to come with him at once, for at any moment it could be too late. Oh, and now this delay. He would willingly have cried: "Master, please don't stand still, walk on!"

Though he does not say such a thing, he doubtless thinks it. How will things be at home? Is his only child still alive? ... Will he see his daughter again, alive? ... He knows that it was very grave, there was not a minute to lose - and now this. It looks just as though everything must be contrarious.

Suddenly he goes pale, for ... while Jesus has a few words with the woman, some messengers push their way through the crowd and come to Jairus. Evidently

they had been sent by Jairus' wife. They bring a message to the ruler of the synagogue, a terrible message. "Thy daughter is dead" they say.

Jairus is stirred to the depth of his soul. His eyes fill with tears. Too late! His child, his only child, is dead.

"Trouble not the Master", the messengers continue. They mean: "The Lord Jesus need no longer come, for it is now too late. It is all over. Your daughter is beyond helping."

The heart of Jairus is torn with grief.

But the Lord Jesus hears those words also. He knows what is going on in that deeply tried father's heart. He will encourage Jairus.

"Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole," says the Messiah to the saddened father. Jesus means: "Jairus, do not despair, for I am the Omnipotent One, the King of Kings, who rules over life and death. If you believe that, then your daughter shall be saved. For man the recovery of your child has now become impossible, but for Me, nothing is impossible."

Again the group sets in motion. They reach at last Jairus' dwelling without further hindrance. Already from a distance they hear the loud sounds of wailing coming from the house of mourning. Is it the Mother who thus bewails? ...

No indeed. Those who truly mourn, do not make so much ado. Those who truly mourn, weep in solitude and quiet. Those who make most ado at a funeral, are also the first to forget their grief. Remember that, children, and take note of it.

In the land of Canaan it was the custom when someone died to hire "wailing women". They earned money for weeping and wailing. But their grief was not real, not true grief, no, it was put on. Once the burial was over, they took the money they had earned and then left, and quickly forgot it all. To us that is rather strange, but there it was the usual custom.

Thus it is that in the house of Jairus some of these wailing women are present

There steps Jairus inside, followed at once by the Lord Jesus. Only three of His disciples may enter. They are Peter, James and John. The rest must remain outside. None of the people is allowed to enter the house of death.

Scarcely has the Lord Jesus entered than He says to the women: "Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth."

A scornful laugh resounds. They think it foolish of the Lord Jesus to say such a thing. Anyone can see, surely, that there lies a corpse? ...

Is it not true then, what Jesus says? ... Is that little girl only sleeping, and will she soon awake refreshed? ... No, she is indeed dead. But why then does the Lord Jesus thus speak? ... Oh, He means by those words: "Do not cry so loudly, for that is not necessary. I am able to raise the dead. Just as you waken one who sleeps, so will I make that child rise from the dead. You expect to earn something here, but go out of this house, for there is nothing for you to earn here."

Yes, but they are not going to do that. They do not believe that. That is why they laugh scornfully and refuse to leave. They stay where they are.

Then they are all put out of the house by Jesus. Now they must obey, and they leave the house, perhaps sulkily.

The door is shut upon them, so that only Jairus and his wife and Jesus with His three disciples remain present.

Then the Son of God steps towards the bed on which the young maid lies. He takes the maiden by her hand, which was lying there, white and motionless upon the sheet and says: "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise".

At that same moment the child opens here eyes and sits up. Then she leaves the bed and walks about in the room.

This is the second time that Jesus restored life to one who was dead. The young man of Nain was the first, and this is the second.

Jairus and his wife stand by motionless and see what takes place. We read in Mark 5 that they were astonished with a great astonishment.

"Give her something to eat", Jesus commands them. This is done and the child eats what is prepared for her.

The Lord Jesus also charges them to tell nobody about what has taken place.

Look, there He is leaving the home of the ruler of the synagogue with His disciples. The people make room.

You can easily understand though that such a thing could not remain hidden. Of course the wailing women came back and saw that the child was alive. The people too soon hear what has take place there within.

In a very short time the whole city of Capernaum knows that the little daughter of Jairus has risen from the dead. Yes, it is not long before this

extraordinary miracle is spoken of throughout the whole land. The people honour Jesus and look upon Him as a great Prophet. The Jews are astonished indeed, but to acknowledge Jesus as the Saviour, as the long promised Messiah, as the son of David, no, that they do not do. They are indeed impressed by the wonders, but those impressions quickly diminish. Later those same people will scream themselves hoarse, saying: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

And that is why Jesus says that no man should know it.

Certainly this miracle was great, but it was not the greatest wonder. Do you know what was even greater? ... That the King of kings came to this sin-cursed earth to give His life and to shed His blood for sinners. For them He would experience death, in order to redeem His elect from eternal punishment. That is the greatest wonder.

All those Jews however did not trouble themselves about that. In spite of all, most of them rejected Him and that was terrible, really terrible. Through that awful unbelief they spurned the means that is given of obtaining salvation.

And what do you do, boys and girls? ... Does not that same unbelief dwell in your hearts? ... Oh, pray the Lord that He will cast out that unbelief from your hearts. May He grant you saving faith.

At last all have left. That evening in the home of the ruler of the synagogue reigns joy - great joy. Those parents have received their only daughter back from the dead as a gift from the Lord. The hearts of Jair's and his wife are filled with deep reverence for the great Prophet of Nazareth. Whether they learned to know the Lord Jesus also as their Saviour, God's Word does not mention. Let us hope that it was so. I cannot say more, for the Bible is silent on this matter.
