

Jesus' Power Over Death

(Matthew 9:18-26)

In Matthew 5-9, we have the words and the deeds of Jesus Christ working together to confirm and substantiate His claim that He is God's anointed King, the promised Messiah, the Son of the living God. In Matthew 8 and 9, we see a progression in the miracles of Jesus. In Matthew chapter 8:1-17, we saw Christ's power over bodily diseases; in verses 23-27, we saw His power over the forces of nature, in verses 28-34, we saw Him show His power over the forces of evil. In chapter 9:1-8, we saw His power to forgive sin, and in verses 9-17, we saw His love and concern. Now in verses 18-26 we shall see that Jesus has power over death.

This passage also teaches us about the nature of faith that pleases God; the faith that honors God and the faith that God honors.

1. ***Jesus _____ anyone who comes to him in _____***

In verse 18 and 20, we note the word "came" (i.e. "a ruler came;" "a woman... came"). It is a simple word that describes the initial contact with Jesus. It means to approach somebody. Two people on the extremes approach Jesus. On one hand, we have Jairus was the chief ruler or elder of the synagogue. No doubt he was prominent, prestigious, privileged, prosperous and powerful. On the other hand, we have an unknown, sickly, unclean, ceremonially defiled, impoverished, woman. But both approached Jesus with deep consciousness and realization of their need. Jairus came falling at the feet of Jesus in worship. The woman simply wanted to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. Jesus welcomes both of them.

2. ***Jesus _____ those who approach Him in _____***

The way people approach Jesus determines the response they receive. Both Jairus and the woman came to Jesus in humble faith (Luke 8:41; Mark 5:28). God listens and responds to a humble heart (Prov. 3:34; cf. 1 Pet. 5:5; James 4:6). Jairus believed that his dead daughter may live if Jesus simply laid His hands upon her. The woman believed that if she could simply touch the hem of Jesus's garment, she will be healed. God meets our needs when we have true faith and for faith to be true, its object must be true. The object of true faith is God in Christ (Heb. 11:6). This faith does not only results in physical healing, but spiritual wholeness (Matt. 9:22; Luke 8:56).

3. ***Jesus _____ that His power is _____***

By simply touching the hem of Jesus' garment, the woman was healed (Mark 5:29; Luke 8:46). And by holding the hand of the little girl and speaking the word, Jesus raised the child to life (cf. John 11:43). Because of this, people started spreading the news that Jesus has power over disease. He has power over demons. And He has power over death.

People who approach Jesus in His terms will know that He not only has the answer to their needs; but that He Himself is the answer. Those who seek Him and call upon Him will have Him (Jer. 29:12-13, Psalm 50:15; 91:15). God will personally deliver them out of all their troubles. Those who approach Jesus properly will come out a different person, they are never the same again. Their lives have been totally changed. They do not only receive physical healings and physical miracles and physical blessings. They find the true meaning of their existence. They find purpose in life ***and all because they received Jesus into their hearts.***