

JESUS, OUR TOUCH OF HOPE

(Luke 8:40-43)

Jesus' fame had reached all areas of Galilee and people are hungry for more; though not hungry for Jesus, but for more miracles. Suddenly Jairus appears begging for help (v.41) for his 12-year old daughter is critical condition. But then, a woman who has been ill for 12 years causes delay as she works her way up close to Jesus and touches His robe for healing.

Both the woman and Jairus came to Jesus in faith and in desperation and in helplessness. Both came to Jesus because of who He was; hearing about Jesus' healing and desperately came for help. Nothing else has worked for either of them, Jesus was their last hope. The contrast is that Jairus was well known and important in the community, a synagogue official, while the woman doesn't even have a name in the scriptures and she is an outcast. From this narrative we can learn three crucial lessons about Jesus' touch of hope.

1. Jesus' touch gives _____ to the _____.
The woman has had this hemorrhage for twelve years. By definition of Jewish law, she was unclean (Lev. 15:19 – 25) and therefore has lived her last 12 years of her life as an outcast. She is also broke having spent all her money on all the doctors who could not cure her (Mark 5:25-26). She hears about Jesus and makes a move.
She believes in faith that all she has to do is touch His coat and be healed. And she did. Jesus stopped and found her and affirmed her faith and healing. Jesus bid her peace. She was free. Meanwhile, news came to Jairus that her daughter is dead. But just as Jesus healed the woman, Jesus affirmed Jairus that his daughter will live (Mark 5:22-24).
2. Jesus gives _____ to hope.
Jairus' faith and hope come alive! His hope was in the right place and the right person, even when all was lost and all failed before. Faith (Heb. 11:1) and hope (Rom. 8:24-25) are not wishful thinking. In God there is no blind faith, no blind hope. The hope we have is from God and to God. God gives us hope through His Word, and in response we look to God to fulfill our hope. God is faithful (Heb. 10:23).
3. Jesus is our hope from suffering to _____.
Jesus is the only real hope, the only hope that takes us from suffering to glory. Jairus and the unnamed woman would have never met Jesus had they not gone looking for Him. They brought their burdens to Him, and their cares. They brought Him their desperation and their pain. They also brought their hope and their faith, and they didn't let the circumstances stop them (Jer. 29:13).
 - Jesus is always available to hear your cry for help. Jesus hears us when we call (Psalm 62:8, Heb. 10:19-23)
 - Jesus allows circumstances to bring our hope to life.

Conclusion:

Jesus offers hope for each of our days. Hope in all that we will go through this year and hopefully beyond. Hope is all of our up and down waves, in our greatest and worst times. Romans 5:1-4, 5.