

Today - Compassion Sunday - fitting to read about **different classes of people benefitting from the compassion of Jesus Christ**. Both Jarius and the bleeding woman were in desperate need. However, they believed that Jesus could meet their needs. Normally, Jarius would not approach Jesus for anything because, as a *synagogue ruler, he belonged to a group who opposed Jesus*. But, Jarius daughter was at the point of death and group loyalty disappeared in the face of personal need. *He fell at Jesus' feet and humbly begged Him earnestly(v22)*. In v23, he expresses his faith in Jesus ability to heal his dying child. *My daughter... come and put your hands on her ...live. Jesus then proceeded to go with him as requested*.

An interruption- v25-34- A woman in a desperate condition who did not qualify to be around Jesus, because she had been bleeding non-stop for about 12 years. Now this must have been challenging for a Jewish woman at that time. Physically, she would be exhausted. She could not bear children. She could not go shopping as everything she came into contact with was considered 'unclean' and everyone would avoid her for fear of contamination, consequently she was excluded from worship in the temple. She was considered a 'living dead'.

While **Jairus verbalised his faith in Jesus publicly**, this woman hid her identity and **didn't say a word to Jesus**, instead in v28, **she thought**, *'if I just touch his clothes I will be healed.'* This is a noteworthy point because there are people in the church today who say *"you must not confess negative things. If you have a headache, for example, you will say 'my enemy has a headache'"*. It is necessary to be sincere with each other and God. **The most important confession** is not what comes from your lips but **what's going on in your heart**. Here this woman declared her need and her faith in her heart and God responds to it. What you're thinking in your heart and mind is just as valid as the words you say because Jesus reads your thoughts. So examine your heart as you pray to align your thoughts with your faith.

V29-30 Immediately she touched Jesus clothes, her bleeding stopped. She **felt the healing** in her body *while* Jesus **felt power go out** of Him. This led to Jesus asking, 'Who touched me?' The crowd pressed on Jesus so why did Jesus ask such a question? I suggest 5 answers. That:

- i. she would know *why* she was healed- not by touching his clothes, but because of her faith in Him.v34
- ii. *she* would know for sure that she *was* healed without doubt.
- iii. her stigma of uncleanness will disappear as others would know *she* was healed.
- iv. she wouldn't think she stole a blessing; Jesus blessed her with compassion, tenderly called her 'daughter.' She now belonged to God's family.
- v. Jairus would see the woman's faith and be encouraged regarding his daughter.

Imagine someone in the crowd who bumped up against Jesus. After the woman's miracle was revealed, they might say, *"I bumped into Jesus, I touched Him – yet I was not healed."* But there is a huge difference between bumping into Jesus here and there and reaching out to touch Him in faith. **You can come to church week after week and "bump into" Jesus. It isn't the same as reaching out to Him in faith or having a personal relationship with Him.** My personal example.

To reach out to Jesus in faith, Romans 10:17 tells us that *'faith comes from hearing the good news of Christ's love for us. That made Him die on the Cross for our sins. As you open your heart and put your faith in Jesus, He transfers His holiness to you and begins to live in and through you.* You may not always get what you ask for, but trust God as Sovereign. He will give you the best according to His will, in His timing and His love.

Jairus must have found it hard to see Jesus give time to this woman. But **God is never slow or late, even if He appears so.**

V35: He heard the inevitable and dreaded words: Your daughter is dead. He must have thought, "Jesus took too long with this woman! Now my daughter is beyond hope!"

V36 - Jesus overhearing the messenger, told Jairus to do two things: firstly, to **stop being afraid**. It sounds almost insensitive for Jesus to say this to a man who just lost his daughter, but Jesus knew that **fear and faith don't go together**. Before Jairus could really trust Jesus, he had to *decide* to put away fear. Secondly, Jesus told Jairus to **just believe**. You cannot **believe** and be afraid at the same time, you cannot **believe** and figure it all out or make sense of a delay. Instead, **just believe Jesus**.

The report given to Jairus told him the situation was hopeless, but the Word of Jesus gave hope. **Jairus chose to focus on Jesus, not the circumstances.** In view of the serious business ahead, Jesus allowed only Peter, James & John to follow him. He wasn't providing a spectacle. In V39 He used the term 'asleep' because **He knew a Higher Spiritual Reality** more certain and powerful than death itself.

V41 Jesus as God, took the girl's hand, spoke to her, and she was raised to life. See why in Romans 4:17 & Philippians 2:10. Whatever your challenge is today, offer it to Jesus to take control.

V42- Even though touching any dead person, was a no-no as it made one ritually unclean and impure, but not Jesus.

Jesus didn't fail Jairus, neither did He fail the woman who was a living dead. But in ministering to both, He stretched the faith of Jairus to receive his daughter from the dead and a restoration of life to the woman. Is He stretching your faith at the moment? Keep holding on to Him.

Compare Jairus and the woman

Jairus' dying child was 12 years old. The woman's illness had been for 12 years.

Jairus was an important man, a ruler of the synagogue. The woman was a nobody, she's nameless.

As an important man, Jairus was wealthy. The woman was poor because she had spent all her money on doctors.

Jesus responded to Jairus after a delay. Jesus responded to the woman immediately

Jairus came publicly. The woman came secretly.

Jairus' daughter was healed privately. The woman was healed publicly.

YET JESUS MET THEIR NEEDS.

Don't look at yourself as unworthy, Jesus is opening wide His loving and compassionate arms to receive and help you. On the flip side, do not allow your position, wealth, cultural pressure, or negative voices, become a stumbling block to your accessing the free gift of love that Jesus gives.

See how diverse and comprehensive is the reach of Christ's compassion! **If Jesus can touch each need so personally, He can touch your needs and mine the same way.**

Questions for Discussion:

1. Of all the people pressing for Jesus' attention, two get through to him in this passage. How so?
2. What impressions do you have of the sick woman?
3. This illness made her ceremonially unclean and thus unable to have contact with other people. What do you think it took for her to touch Jesus?
4. How was her faith obvious to Jesus?
5. In what ways other than physical, was this woman healed and given new peace?
6. What impressions do you get of Jairus?
7. How is Jairus' situation similar to that of the sick woman and how is it different?
8. As Jairus, what would you say to the crowd after Jesus left?
9. What new things did the disciples of Jesus learn about the power and compassion of Jesus?