

DIVINE HEALING

Have you ever lost all hope? Despairing? Not knowing what to do next? In Luke 8:40-56, two people come to Jesus as their last best hope. It's the third of a triad of miracles. We've seen Jesus as Lord over creation (wind, waves), the spirit world (demoniac), and now, Lord of life.

The Decapolis gentiles probably thought of Jesus as a magician. As He returns to Galilee, God in His providence again displays opportunity for divine prerogative. "God's providence refers to His seeing all things before, and His sovereign arrangement of all things," notes RK Hughes.

DESPERATE FATHER - When Jesus returned, the crowd had been waiting for Him. Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, cast aside prestige, position and power. He humbly fell at Jesus' feet, and implored Him to come to His house. His only daughter, about twelve years old, was dying.

In Mark 5 he says, "*Come and lay Your hands on her and she will live.*" In his tender love, he surely had exhausted every available means. And he has faith in the only One who can help. "But it was not love for Christ that brought him, it was desperation," notes Hughes. "Despair is a common prelude to grace." But he had a glimmer of hope, because of Jesus' prior miracles.

DETERMINED DAUGHTER - As Jesus went along, Luke says He was touched by a woman with a discharge of blood, who for twelve years had spent all her living on physicians, to no avail. Desperation hardly captures the condition of this daughter of Israel. Mark says she had suffered much under the doctors and was no better but grew worse. The Talmud notes eleven cures for such a condition, but none had healed her. Beyond this, she had also been ostracized.

"She was a pariah to the synagogue, the community, and her family because of this unclean malady," says RC Sproul. Leviticus 15:19-30 declared her unclean. Purification laws were meant to prevent transmission of disease, as Exodus 15:26: "*if you will diligently keep My statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.*"

DEEP FAITH - "Jairus had nothing but joy for twelve years through the delight of his daughter," notes Sproul, "but for the same time this woman had nothing but unrelenting agony." In her fledgling faith, this determined woman believed she would be healed if she could touch Jesus.

Luke says she touched the fringe of Jesus' garment, "*and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.*" God had given her an opportunity to express her flicker of faith. As an untouchable, she did not draw attention to herself by asking for help, but somehow managed to reach Jesus.

"In that moment of contact between a broken woman and the healing Christ, we see the concern and compassion of God," notes Sproul. "No individual is unimportant. She instantly recovered her health and dignity, because God incarnate had ministered to her." That's why we pray and trust Him for His healing grace. Only the Lord God can do such things!

DRAWN POWER - Before she could rejoice, she was stopped in her tracks. Jesus said, "*Who was it that touched Me?*" All denied it. Peter said, "*Master, the crowds surround You and are pressing in on You!*" But Jesus said, "*Someone touched Me, for I perceive that power has gone out from Me.*" Impetuous Peter always knows better. But Jesus knew that God had willed her healing, just as in Luke 6:19, as "*power came out from Him and healed*" those who touched Him.

Jesus knew this woman needed to be publicly pronounced whole in order to undo her humiliation from the affliction. Trembling, she fell down, and declared why she had touched Him, and how she was immediately healed. Jesus said, "*Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.*"

DIVINE DECLARATION - Perhaps she was afraid Jesus would renounce her cure since she had touched Him, which under Jewish law would have made Jesus unclean. And all the people she had brushed against in the crowd could have turned on her. It was like first-century covid.

But her testimony was like Psalm 116: "*gracious is the Lord and righteous. Our God is merciful; when I was brought low He saved me, delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I believed, I spoke; what shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?*"

"*I will lift up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord, in the presence of all His people, I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Praise the Lord!*" Is this your testimony? ☐