

• *A woman with constant bleeding is healed by touching Jesus cloak*

• *News of a dead girl – who according to Jesus will soon wake-up!*

• *Both sufferers had problems which were overwhelming*

1. Jesus healed by a power that flowed through Him

• *Jesus was personally involved*

2. Desperation makes us bold.

• *Sometimes, when we are not desperate we hold back from going to God*

3. The woman was not allowed to stay as secretive as she had wished

In Luke 8:40–56, Luke is following Mark 5:21–43. Jesus returns to Galilee from Gadara or the land of the Gerasenes' ¹. When He arrives a crowd are eagerly waiting for Him. A synagogue official named Jairus begs Jesus to come to heal his daughter ². As they are going towards Jairus' house a woman suffering from a constant haemorrhage touches the fringe of His cloak and is immediately healed ³. We read the story with interest. We wonder: will it be possible for Jesus to heal someone without knowing it? No, Jesus says '*I was aware that power had gone forth from me*' ⁴. Jesus reassures the woman and continues His journey ⁵. Just at that point someone comes with the news that Jairus' daughter has died ⁶, but Jesus tells Jairus not to fear ⁷ and they continue walking towards the house. No one is allowed to witness what happens except those closely involved ⁸. Jesus insists that the girl is only 'sleeping'. Her death is temporary and she will soon 'awake'. But the crowd pour ridicule on Jesus ⁹. Soon the girl is raised from the dead but Jesus still insists that the matter be kept confidential ¹⁰.

Both sufferers, Jairus and the woman, had problems, which were overwhelming. Both had to persist in faith despite great discouragements. Both were encouraged to continue in faith. And both experienced Jesus' mighty power in their lives. We have considered these matters before, elsewhere,¹ but there are some further principles we can draw from these stories.

1. **Jesus healed by a power that flowed through Him.** The healing could not take place without Jesus knowing it! It was not just a superstitious reverence for Jesus that brought the woman to health. God let a power rest upon Jesus. When the woman drew by faith from the power that was in Jesus, He instantly knew what had happened. It is a mysterious story and I doubt whether anyone really understands exactly what happened. But it shows that the power was in the person of Jesus. He had to be personally involved and to 'feel' what was happening. It underlines that the answers to our prayers come because Jesus Himself is involved with us and is willing to bless us.

2. **Desperation makes us bold.** The woman was obviously fearful of coming to Jesus in the way in which she did. The haemorrhage she had would make her 'unclean' in the eyes of the religious leaders. But she was desperate. Sometimes God lets things get to a point of desperation in our lives simply because nothing else will drive us to Jesus. Many of us are shy, proud, wanting to hold back and be uninvolved in something that God is doing. But then our situation is so serious that we take steps that we would never take if we were not so desperate.

3. **The woman was not allowed to stay as secretive as she had wished.** Obviously she did not want anyone to know what she was doing. Her faith was secret faith. She wanted no one to know, not even Jesus! She was hoping that she could touch Jesus, get healed and escape without anyone knowing what she had done. Jesus could have let her remain a secret believer. But no, He deliberately makes a point of getting the woman to speak out. The woman had to see '*that she had not escaped notice*' ¹. People may become 'secret disciples' but

¹ 8:26, 40

² 8:41-42

³ 8:43-44

⁴ 8:45-46

⁵ 8:47-48

⁶ 8:49

⁷ 8:50

⁸ 8:51

⁹ 8:52-53

¹⁰ 8:54-56

¹ see footnote

¹ 8:47

• *Reassured and sent away in peace*

Jesus is likely to do something that will bring them out into the open. He knows how to draw us out so that we tell out what has happened to us. After she has publicly acknowledged that Jesus has done something for her, she is given reassurance and sent away in peace

8:48

4. Unbelievers are excluded from the greatest of God's blessings.

• *The world does not know how to handle the grim reality of death*

4. **Unbelievers are excluded from the greatest of God's blessings.** When Jesus speaks of raising Jairus' daughter the crowd laugh at Him, 'knowing that she had died'. It gives us a typical picture of the world. They are gripped with the sadness of what has happened. They are all weeping and lamenting. It is typical of the world. They know how to mourn and grieve over death. In many parts of the world, pagans seem to love funerals!

• *Jesus does not seek to prove himself – as an insecure person would have done*

Yet they do not know how to handle the grim reality of death. They think they know all about this world. 'Knowing she had died!' They think they know. They think nothing can reverse the situation now that the girl had died. They send a message to Jesus because they think that now the girl has died it is the end of the matter! When Jesus speaks of His own power they are utterly sceptical and pour their laughter and ridicule upon the Son of God.

• *God does not prove himself to those who will not believe but to those who do believe*

One might think that Jesus would show them that they are wrong. So many of us desire to prove ourselves to other people. One might think that Jesus would want to prove to these scornful unbelievers that He can do the very thing that they are ridiculing. He can raise the girl from the dead. But only insecure people have to prove themselves to others, and Jesus is not in the least insecure! He does not at all bring in these unbelievers to witness what He will do. He does the exact opposite. He sends them away and allows no one to witness what He will do except those who are trusting Him in this terrible bereavement.

God does not prove Himself to those who will not believe. He does the exact opposite. For those who believe He will prove Himself! The ones who have persisted in faith see the mighty miracle of Jesus. Those who believe His claims are the ones who experience His power.

Note 1. See Eaton, Mark (Preaching Through the Bible), ch. 10.

	<p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)</i> books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p>	
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