

Gospel of Matthew

9:18-26

...and She Got Up!



When the angels announced the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, they made their famous proclamation -
“...*and peace on earth on who His favor rests*”

Something divinely spectacular beyond words was taking this part of the world by storm! It was the epicenter of the Creator/ God’s powerful activity on earth! God had always been at work on earth, usually behind the scenes, but now for a brief time He had thrust Himself into the forefront.

His plan was being rocketed through this tiny portion of human history, capturing everyone’s attention in the same way a comet shining its journey through the night sky is followed by every eye.



But He did not do ANY of those kinds of things. One of the first things He was confronted with as he entered his brief and powerful ministry years was Satan tempting Him to show off! And He refused! He wasn't interested in showing off! So, He wasn't grandstanding here. He was calling attention to Himself, yes, because *THAT* was His mission! He was doing what He had to do to get people to notice and to listen to what He had to say! But he achieved it by healing normal, ordinary, regular people – people that the “important” people didn't care about. He didn't heal kings, queens, nobles, the wealthy. He didn't get any money for any of it! No one could pay Him. The middle class didn't exist in that day and place. It was the very poor and the very rich. It is not that he turned the rich away, but it was the very poor that came to Jesus in droves while the rich remained skeptical! Remember He stated that it was hard, nearly impossible for the rich to be saved! So it was the very poor that He mainly healed!



But this story is an exception to the general rule. An actual *nobleman* came to Jesus! But why? What made the difference with this powerful man?! The difference was that reality had smacked this man in the face. The truth is that the forces of life and death are way more powerful than our puny efforts to overcome them! All of us are very weak, and only God is strong – like the little children’s song “**Jesus Loves Me**” states so wisely and succinctly. If we are living with the thought that we are strong, self-made, secure – then we have constructed an illusion. It’s called “delusions of grandeur. Powerful people have been self-deluded since the beginning of creation!



But this nobleman was destroyed! His life was upside down because His beloved daughter was dying and he, with all his wealth and influence, was powerless to stop it from happening! But He had heard about this man – some said He was a Prophet, others said a Teacher, but one thing everyone agreed on was that he was a Healer from God. It was said that He had the Divine touch. Demons obeyed Him! A paralyzed man had stood and walked away! Someone with a fever had gone from being bedridden to being well/normal in an instant! The nobleman had heard these things, was down to his last hope! It was late, But, I guess, better to come to Jesus for help when its late than to never have come!



It is inherently human that we would almost rather die than to lose control of our own life. But control is the illusion. It is not ours Control belongs to God, and God alone. We cannot take His place no matter how much we want to – no matter how hard we try! Love, money, power, education, strength, beauty – these things only serve to obscure the truth of existence – that we are not in control and never can be. We rage against this truth, try for MORE control, distract ourselves with extreme activities that make us feel strong. But we inevitably grow old, sick, weak, and reality sets in. But, even so, there are a lot of embittered, disappointed old people who just can't accept that life has passed them by, that their time is over, and there's nothing they can do about it!



The Nobleman finally accepted reality. He was helpless to save his daughter. But there was someone He could turn to who WAS powerful, who could do God-like things, who could save when no one else could. So he went to Jesus. He didn't have faith like the centurion, if you remember, who told Jesus not to come to his home but to just order a healing done from afar. But this man invited Jesus over and Jesus was willing. So they turn to leave and Jesus felt a power drain. Someone had reached out, touched His garment.





She had not been able to live a normal life for all that time. She was a woman who could have been young - somewhere in her mid-20's – if her problem started when she reached puberty – which is likely. And all she did was believe in the person and in the power of Jesus. And He healed and changed her life because she reached out for help. She knew that she was not in control, and she trusted Jesus. She did not

even feel worthy to call attention to herself and her problem. So she only reached out for an imperceptible touch of his garment. But Jesus knew what had transpired, and He came back to her, commended her humble faith, and confirmed her healing. She had her life back! Maybe there was time to even have a family. Or if she already had one, to concentrate on them rather than herself.

[Mark 5:21-43]

~Jarius - synagogue ruler – member of a ruling family

~This happened shortly after coming back from the crossing of Sea of Galilee and the healing of the demon possessed maniacs that happened on the other side.

~The woman had suffered greatly – the affliction and the “care” of “doctors”. She had bankrupted herself looking for a cure. She was getting worse!

~She was just one in a crush of people clamoring for Jesus attention! Jesus is being touched by many but singles out a healing touch!

~Peter, James, and John were the only disciples Jesus had allowed to come with. Those three and the girl's parents were in the room when Jesus took her hand and commanded her to get up, to “***Talitha, koum***”!

~ Jesus forbade anyone of the other 5 adults that witnessed this resurrection from the dead to speak of what they had seen!



[Luke 8:41-56]

- Immediately after the healing of the woman, someone, a servant or family member, came and announced the death of Jairus's daughter. But Jesus assured Jairus that it would be all right and encourages him to “*just believe*”, and they continue on to Jarius's home.
- Flute players already playing their dirges
- All three synoptic gospels - “they laughed at Him”



Jesus moved away, following the nobleman, and His disciples bringing up the rear. They get to the nobleman's house and there's a "noisy crowd" in the house. People grieve loudly there – always have. Wailing is almost an art form in that place. The head servant may have even hired someone to begin the wailing and crying for the family. So Jesus walks in to a scene where people are distraught or acting like their distraught, and tells them to quiet down. He further made the statement that the girl was not dead but only sleeping. Why He said that is unknown. Was she *actually* not dead and just unconscious? We can not know one way or the other. Probably she *was* dead and Jesus was just downplaying His next miracle? Why would he do that? We can only speculate that he may have said that because the timing for a huge burst of publicity was not right yet. Instead, people concluded that Jesus had been right after all. The girl hadn't been dead!



This is exactly why the angels were excited. They knew what was to come! They were looking forward to seeing what God would do! They were looking forward to God revealing Himself with power and to seeing many believe!



Do you believe? Have you heard enough from reliable witnesses? Are you open to the power of God to save you from your sins? Do you trust Him to heal and bring you into a new life?