

When God's word spends a fair bit of time hammering the same message, that should be a bit of a 'heads-up' for us, that this is really important stuff...

We're in a section of Luke where the focus is on the power of Jesus, and the examples keep coming. And in each case, it's a power that means "He has authority".

He has power over:

- the natural, physical world (We saw that when He stilled the storm);
- spirit world (He cast out a whole legion of demons and a crazy, demon-possessed man came to his right mind.);
- sickness and disease (When a woman with a flow of blood, touched Him in a crowd, she was instantly healed of something that had ailed her for 12 years.);

and He even has power over:

- Death. (He took Jairus's dead daughter by the hand and said, "Child arise". And she got up and had breakfast...

All of this, is pointing us to "Who Jesus is". The type of power He has, and the type of authority He has... Jesus is doing (over and over again) things that only God can do.

So, we're in a section where it's been highlighting the power of Jesus, but more than that, it's opening our eyes to the god-

ness of Jesus (divinity). ... And **today's** Bible reading, brings in the logical response to this: **“Faith”**.

And as Disciples of Jesus, we **live** by faith:

Not faith in a miracle/exorcism/healing/resurrection, but faith in Jesus... Because of who Jesus is, and because of the power and authority that Jesus holds, we can have the utmost confidence in Him, and that **His** will (which is perfect), will be done.

Righto, so Jesus has just returned to the Western side of the lake. As they sailed East across Lake Galilee, they had the storm on the lake. And then on the Eastern bank is where He drove the demons out of the man. And now He's crossed back over, onto the Western shore. And there's a crowd waiting for Him.

And there, was a man named “Jairus” – he's the ruler of the synagogue... He wasn't one of the hierarchy who were part of ‘Head-office’ at the temple in Jerusalem – he was in charge of the local Synagogue – where the locals would gather for worship.

And Jairus was really worried, because his 12-year old daughter was on the verge of death. **And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house**

And so Jesus is on his way to this very sick pre-teen, and the crowd are pressing in around Him. And there in the jostle, Jesus feels healing power go out from him.

⁴⁵ And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?"

And everyone goes, "Not me!"...

Awkward... And good old Peter, he points out the obvious: "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me."

It wasn't just accidental touch – a healing event had been sought/taken place, and Jesus knew it...

⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.

Why was she trembling? Why was she afraid?

Well, getting healed, is something she tried to do in secret, but she'd been found out. But why would she try to do it in secret? We're not told why, but I suspect it's probably because she was embarrassed and ashamed.

This woman had suffered greatly. She had had a flow of blood for 12 years. She'd spent everything she could earn on doctors, and not one of them could help her... But she would

have been ashamed, because the flow of blood made her ceremonially unclean... For 12 years, she wouldn't have been allowed to go to the temple; And anyone who touched her, they became unclean...

I suspect that's why she came up behind Jesus, and just touched the fringe of His shirt... Jesus is on His way to the home of the Synagogue ruler... The woman would never be allowed in that home, and nor would Jesus if they knew He'd recently been in contact with the unclean.

And so: ⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

And then she confesses, "It was me. And this is what happened; and this is why I touched You..."

No one was able to heal her... But she reached out and touched the fringe of Jesus' shirt, and she was instantly and completely healed.

⁴⁸ And [Jesus] said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.**"

It wasn't her touching Jesus' clothes that made her well – it was her **faith** in Jesus that made her reach out, that made her well... The only thing she did wrong, is she wanted to keep it private. But Jesus wanted her testimony to be heard.

And there's a lesson in this for us. Sometimes I think we want to keep our faith too private. I've actually had people say to

me, “My faith is a private thing for me – I keep it to myself.” But faith isn’t meant to be private. As Disciples of Jesus, we declare the wonderful things that God has done. That’s how we bring God glory.

And so the woman, when she came to Jesus, she had suffered an embarrassing condition for years. And for her, there was no peace. Her condition meant she had been ceremonially unclean. And so, for 12 years, she wasn’t allowed to attend the temple to meet with God... How could she of had peace when she couldn’t meet with God...

But even so: – in Jesus, she had the perfect opportunity to meet with God, and she tried to sneak away...

And even when she was healed, she was trembling with fear... Even though her faith brought her to Jesus, and yes, she was physically healed,, but it was when she **met** with Jesus and **spoke** with Jesus, and entered into **relationship** with Jesus, and declared the mercy of Jesus, that’s when she had peace.

You know, people check out this Christianity thing for a whole lot of reasons. Some have:

- a problem they want fixed;
- at a cross-roads and they want guidance;
- marriage is in trouble and they want that fixed;
- sickness they want healed;
- guilt of which they want to be relieved,

and they come to church, hoping they will get a quick-fix and move on – a bit like this woman – seeking a quiet touch, and slip back into the background...

But true peace/healing only comes when we are in **relationship** with Jesus. A **true** faith, draws us into a deep and very satisfying relationship with our Lord. If you want a quiet touch from Jesus, and then slip back into the background, you need not apply here...

How would you feel if your kids did that to you? When I became “a dad”, I understood (so much better), what it means for God to be our Heavenly Father.

Any parent here, understands what kind of relationship they crave to have with their children... No parent ever wants to be in the position where they only ever see their children when they want something (something to eat; some money; need a hand),,, And then they don't see them until next time they need something.

Why would we ever treat God like that? Your heavenly Father longs to be in relationship with you. And to be in relationship with our Heavenly Father, is the source of genuine peace...

Righto, let's move on:

Meanwhile, Jairus's daughter, who was on the verge of death, has now died. What a devastating thing it must be – to lose a child.

A messenger came to Jairus, “Your daughter is dead; Don't trouble the Teacher anymore.”

That makes me think of the time that King David's son was desperately ill. And while he was still alive, he fasted and lay on the ground,,, but when the child died, he got up and had a bath and went to the temple and worshipped God...

Once they're dead, you can't do anything about it... And that's the message Jairus received: "Your daughter's dead; No point bringing Jesus now..."

But Jesus overheard the message, and He spoke straight into it: **"Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."**

And of course, the outcome is "Jesus raised her back to life." Now, does that mean that whenever anyone we love dies, all we have to do is believe that they will be raised, they will come back to life again??? - Some people claim that (you know)... But no, it does not mean that...

And this is what faith is about. Faith is **not** about claiming things as "promises" – Faith, is about "believing in Jesus". And in **this** case, Jesus said to Jairus, **"Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."**

And if Jesus has said that, then Jairus could believe it, because if the Son of God says that a particular individual who has died, will be well, then we can have every confidence, that that individual, will be well...

But the trouble comes when the promise given to Jairus (that **his** daughter will be raised) — when that promise to Jairus is

claimed by another person (as a promise to themselves), and they expect that **their** loved one is going to come back to life, they're bound for disappointment, because they're claiming a promise that doesn't exist. ... Are you with me?

... Jairus's faith wasn't based on a feeling; or a hope; or a promise made to someone else,,,, His faith was based on the clear word of the Lord Jesus, the Son of God, who spoke specifically, clearly, and directly to him...

You know, we have a similar hope... The Lord Jesus Christ **has** made a clear statement, that those who believe in Him, will be raised in glory, when He returns... We don't need to hope for a temporary physical miracle. Our hope is in eternal life, in glory with Jesus.

Righto, so they get to the house, and there's a lot of mourning and weeping going on. And Jesus says, "**Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.**" – Why would He say that? We know she was dead. The ones who were there at the house laughed at Jesus, because they knew she was dead. Her spirit had left her (that happens at death).

You see, this is how people of faith view death. Death is not the end. The early church referred to those who had died as "Those who have fallen asleep"... Because yes, they had shuffled off their mortal coil, but they will live again – it's like waking up.

And so Jesus goes up, with just a few of his disciples, and the girl's parents, and He takes her by the hand, and He says, **"Child, arise."** ⁵⁵ **And her spirit returned, and she got up at once.** And then Jesus said, "Well, you'd better give her something to eat."

And of course, her parents were amazed, but He said, "Don't tell anyone what has happened"...

Why would He do that? An enormous miracle: "Don't tell anyone..."

Of course it was known anyway, what had happened. She was dead; Jesus went up to her room; Now she's alive...

I suspect, He wanted the girl to have some peace. Can you imagine, if it was known, "She's the one that came back to life", she'd have all of these curious people pestering her for her whole life – "What was it like when you died?" "Tell us again"... And then everyone would build their whole understanding of death and God, and the afterlife, around this one girl's experience. Today she'd probably be expected to write a book....

In 2010, two different books were published. They both hit the "Best Seller List", and earned their authors a lot of money. Both of them telling the stories of 2 different little boys who apparently died, went to heaven, and then were revived again.

Since then, one of them has recanted and said, “No, they made it all up”, and the other one sticks by his book and says “It’s all true” ...

But the point is, there seemed to be a whole generation who now base what they believe about heaven, upon what they read in that book, rather than having faith in what God tells us in His word.

It seems that, when it comes to death, God’s word reveals a little bit;;; But it reveals enough;;; And it seems that’s the way God wants it. And I suspect that’s why Jesus told the parents, not to tell anyone about this – in fact, **he charged** [ordered/commanded] **them to tell no one what had happened.**

The lesson today, is about faith. Because of Who Jesus is (God the Son), He has power/authority. And therefore, our faith is well-placed in Him.

You can tell a lot about a person’s faith, by the language they use. It’s become quite fashionable within Christian circles to say “I am believing for” “I believe for”... Nowhere in the New Testament, is that phrase used. The phrase is simply “believe” or “believe in”...

You see, we don’t believe

- **for** a miracle to happen.

- **for** a healing;
- **for** a dead person to come back to life again;

We believe **in**.

We believe **in**:

- the Lord Jesus Christ
- the One who has all power and all authority;
- the resurrection of the dead.

Jesus has the power and the authority to keep His promise. Yes, there have been instances where the dead have been raised. *There was the case of Eutychus. And as I remember this, I'm reminded to finish up real quick. Eutychus died of a condition called dialog-polyon (really long talking).*

Paul was preaching in a room on the 3rd story of a house. And Paul being a typical preacher went on and on and on. And Eutychus was sitting on the window, and he fell asleep, and tumbled out backwards, out the window, hit the ground and died.

Cause of death: dialog-polyon (the preacher went on too long)

But Paul took him by the hand, and he got up, alive.

Resurrections have happened, but they're rare.

But there is one resurrection, that **is** promised to everyone who believes. It's for **everyone** who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus returns, the trumpet will sound, and the Disciples of Jesus – those who have died with their faith

firmly in Him, **will** be raised to life eternal. You can be sure of that. You can stake your life on that. – and we do.

Jesus said to Jairus, **"Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."**

And I believe, Jesus would say something very similar to us today. When it comes to death, "Do not fear; only believe." And because we believe **in** the Lord Jesus Christ, we believe that His promise is true:

John 11: (ESV)

²⁵ Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Do you believe this? Do you believe in Jesus? Is your faith in Him and Him alone? Then this promise is for you.

If not, come and talk to me, and we'll talk about what "faith" is about.