

"Compassion and Action"

Matthew 9:18-26

Overview



There is enough sadness in our world today to make it hard to be hopeful. One can be forgiven for not being positive about our future given the wars, famine, poverty and pain in our world (not to mention the global pandemic).

As Christians we instinctively know that, of all people, we should be the hopeful ones. Despite the devastation around us, we understand that there is more to this world than simply what we can see....much more.

If we have fallen victim to the despair around us, it may be because we have taken our eyes off the One who is our hope. Perhaps the rekindling of a hopeful spirit needs nothing more than a reminder of who Jesus is (and what He can do).

Getting Started

Hope For Life Restored....



1. Do you have a favorite "comeback" story? Is it from a movie? From real life? Is it a comeback of your own? What are the details?
 2. What part of God's creation gives you hope? Where do you go to have your spirit re-energized and your hope restored?
 3. Jesus is many things to many people. What is it about Him that you especially appreciate today?
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The Text



¹⁸ While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹ Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

²⁰ Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. ²¹ She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

²² Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

²³ When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, ²⁴ he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. ²⁵ After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶ News of this spread through all that region.

The Video (optional) “Compassion and Action” – Matthew 9:18-26 – by Kyle Corbin, Nov. 7/21
(view at www.immanuelonline.ca).



NOTES: _____

Understanding



1. In this passage, who comes next to Jesus with a request (and what is the nature of that request (vs. 18)? How is this significant given what Jesus has just finished teaching (review vs. 16-17)?
2. What is Jesus' reaction to the request (vs. 19)? Why would it have been important for Him to respond in this way (i.e. where is He and/or who is He with) (see vs. 9-10, 14)?
3. Who approaches Jesus as He is journeying to the leader's home (vs. 20)? Why does she want to meet Jesus? What are the different ways in which she would have been suffering? What is the depth of her faith and how does she demonstrate it (vs. 21)?
4. How does Jesus react to the woman's approach (vs. 22)? What does He do for her? Why does He respond as He does (i.e. what does Jesus say is the reason she is healed (NB: the word translated "healed" can also include the idea of being "saved"))?
5. What does Jesus find upon arrival at the synagogue leader's home (vs. 23)? Why are these people there? What does Jesus instruct the people to do (and what is their reaction) (vs. 24)?
6. What does Jesus do for the leader's daughter (vs. 25)? What is the result (and what do you imagine the reaction of the people was) (vs. 26)?

Applying



1. How does the synagogue leader demonstrate his faith in Jesus (vs. 18)? In what kinds of situations can we demonstrate a similar kind of faith (and what would that look like)?
2. Why do you suppose the woman in verse 20 simply comes up behind Jesus rather than addressing Him directly (as the synagogue leader did)? (Check out also Lev. 15:19.) Do people ever take a similar approach to Jesus today (and, if so, in what way)? (Hint: Consider how our sin and/or our customs/expectations can isolate us and impact our approach to God.)
3. We all know of many instances where people have prayed to be healed and healing has not been granted. Why not? Why would Jesus restore a woman who simply sought to touch His garment but not heal one of His faithful servants who has perhaps prayed for years to be healed? Is the faith of that faithful servant just not strong enough?
4. When the synagogue leader comes to Jesus, he tells Jesus that his daughter is dead (vs. 18). But Jesus says she is “asleep” (vs. 24)? Was she really dead? Could both the leader and the mourners all have been mistaken? Consider also Matt. 10:5-8, John 11:14. If she really was dead, why does Jesus say what He says?
5. Jesus interestingly puts the crowd outside prior to His bringing healing to the leader’s daughter (vs. 25)? Why do you suppose He did that given that the girl was about to be healed and shown to the crowd anyway? Review vs. 24 and see Mark 5:40-43.
6. On what basis did the synagogue leader and the woman appeal to Jesus for help? (i.e. Were they friends of Jesus? From the same town? Offering payment? Allies in His cause? Especially virtuous?) How does your answer impact the way you approach Jesus with your needs?
7. Have you ever seen God move in a miraculous way? If so, what were the circumstances? What was your reaction (and the reaction of others) to that miracle?
8. Is there some way in which you need God to bring revival and new life into your experience? How so (and how will you seek that gift from God)? How do you sense God moving you to show the compassion of Jesus to others?

Memory Verse(s)



*I said, "Have mercy on me, LORD;
heal me, for I have sinned against you.*

Psalm 41:4 (NIV)

Extra Resources



- ❖ *"Compassion and Action" – Matthew 9:18-26* – by Kyle Corbin, Nov. 7/21 (sermon, view at www.immanuelonline.ca). Pastor Kyle details the relevance of a pair of healing miracles that Jesus performs.
- ❖ *"Jesus' Power Over Death, Part 1"* - by John MacArthur (sermon at www.gty.org, Feb. 8, 1981). MacArthur details how, in our desperate moments, Jesus is accessible and touchable.
- ❖ *"If God Doesn't Heal You"* – by Kathryn Butler (article at www.desiringgod.org, Jan. 27, 2018). This article contains some great perspective for those times when healing does not come.