

“The odds are...”

Matthew 9v18-26

Scripture Ref: Lev 15:25; Eph 6:12; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Cor 15:20-28; Col 1:19-20; Rev 21:5

The Odds Are

18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."

1. **Dr Luke gives us a little more detail about this encounter, in Luke 8 we are told that this mans name is Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagog.**
 - a. **Prior to 586 BC, all Jews came to worship at the temple, but in 586 they were carried away to exile in Babylon for seventy years, and the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed.**
 - b. **No longer able to worship at the temple, they established synagogues in every neighborhood with ten or more Jewish men.**
 - c. **Each synagogues had ten leaders, called elders, and one of those men would be chosen as the “ruler” of that synagogue.**
 - d. **The ruler of a synagogue was a very important person, as he not only was in charge of the synagogue but also settled civil disputes in the neighborhood.**
 - e. **They were men of honor, prestige, power and prosperity in the community, much like a mayor would be today.**
2. **So what is so odd about this man coming to Jesus? It’s odd because he was putting his position at great risk by coming to Jesus.**
 - a. **He was putting his livelihood at risk because he was faced with a new reality that changed his priorities.**
 - b. **Something happened to him that will happen to each of us at some point in our lives – he experienced a *life-changing event***
 - c. **His twelve year old daughter had died. As I have said before, we can read this on the page and just keep on going to the next scripture, but let’s make this personal.**
3. **Imagine your twelve year old daughter suddenly getting very sick and dying.**
 - a. **My wife has found a new passion – scrap-booking! The last few weeks she has gotten out all the old pictures of our kids, and the journal entries that she made each year while they were growing up, and put them all into these really cool books you can get now.**
 - b. **Paging through those pictures of my daughters, happy little girls, full of life and joy... they truly brought light into our lives, as I am sure Jairus’s daughter did!**

- c. **And I am sure that he lived life just like I do, going on about the business of life, ministry, work, family...**
 - d. **Then suddenly one day – BAM – his only child, this beautiful little girl, gets sick and dies.**
 - e. **Suddenly his ministry doesn't seem so important. His position in the community doesn't really matter anymore. His business doesn't hold any value... because something much more important has just been taken away.**
- 4. And isn't that just how things can happen?**
- a. **There you are, living life, working, going through your daily motions.**
 - b. **And you have your priorities... but then something happens, your world is shaken, and it makes what is important crystal clear.**
 - c. **And where are you going to turn? Where did Jairus turn? "My daughter has just died," he says, "but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live."**

19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. 20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

- 5. So Jesus is on the way to Jairus house, and this woman comes up with another problem (my days feel like that sometimes!).**
- a. **Here is a woman who has had a problem – "blood flow" – in other words because she was hemorrhaging, she could not worship with the congregation:**

Lev 15:25 'If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, other than at the time of her customary impurity, or if it runs beyond her usual time of impurity, all the days of her unclean discharge shall be as the days of her customary impurity.

- b. **Now before you say God is mean to women, we need to understand that God gave very strict social and dietary restrictions to the Israelites to keep them healthy; Remember there were no antibiotics back then!**
- c. **Of course, we also know that the social and religious culture was not what it should have been; men were sexist, legalism was rampant,**
- d. **and the community most likely considered this woman defiled, and shunned her instead of ministering to her.**
- e. **And she was at a place where she just couldn't take it anymore – she needed something to happen!**

6. So she finds Jesus, works her way through the crowd, and touches the hem of His garment.
7. So suddenly we have two situations colliding in front of Jesus...
 - a. A little girl who was playing in the yard one day, and lying dead the next;
 - b. A woman who has been suffering for twelve years:
8. And both of these are scenarios played out in our world every day...
9. Perhaps the past twelve years have been good for you – full of life and love and goodness. God has been gracious to you!
 - a. Suddenly, in one day, something could happen that could rock your world.
 - b. You can't guarantee that the next day won't bring tragedy.
 - c. *(FACT: If you are not in the midst of a problem now, then you either just come out of one, or your about to have one!)*
 - d. And you realize that your position in life, nor your money can change the outcome one bit.
 - e. And you decide that nothing else matters, that you need to reach out to Jesus no matter what the cost.
10. Or perhaps you have been like the woman – for the past twelve years you have been depressed, down, battling physical, emotional, or spiritual darkness.
 - a. Maybe the old dry religious system has let you down,
 - i. Those “old wineskins” that we talked about aren't bringing you the healing that you so desperately desire.
 - b. Or maybe there is a crowd between you and Jesus –
 - i. That crowd could be your old friends, maybe it's the alcohol in your cabinet,
 - ii. Or a romantic relationship that keeps you from moving forward.
11. The point is that in both cases, there is but one place to turn – Jesus Christ!
 - a. In either case, Jesus can bring life to a dark room, bring hope to a hopeless situation.
 - b. Perhaps it's time to reach out – to dig in – to press in through the crowd, into the space of Jesus!
12. We see Jesus, in both cases, move in a mighty fashion...

When you cant take it anymore - Reach out

21 For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."
22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "**Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.**" And the woman was made well from that hour.

13. The interesting thing here is that this woman came to Jesus based on *superstition* – her theology was all messed up!
 - a. In Jesus day there was a superstitious belief that there was power in touching the hem of a garment of a rabbi or spiritual leader.
 - b. That they were somehow “closer to God”, and if you touched their garment the power of God would flow out of them into you, and a miracle could happen.
14. But Jesus didn't tell her “*sorry, you don't have the right theology, I can't help you.*”
 - a. He touched her in spite of her wrong ideas and issues!
15. You wonder if by this time Jairus is getting impatient – “hey, my daughter is dead, can we move on?”

When it seems impossible - Put out! (the doubt)

23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, 24 He said to them, “***Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.***” And they ridiculed Him.

16. What Jesus encountered here was more like a circus than a funeral we might go to today.
 - a. In that day, when someone died, the family would hire professional mourners and wailers. The wealthier the family, the bigger the production.
 - b. Since Jairus was an important man, there may have been 40-50 mourners there, wailing and playing. All of them actors, people who saw death all the time.
 - c. And here come Jesus, who says “***Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping***” – and Matthew writes that they laughed him to scorn.
17. Everyone thought that this was tremendously funny – everyone except the one to whom it mattered the most, Jairus.
18. And you know what? When you get hit with something that looks impossible, something that seems un-resolvable... there will be scoffers... but maybe not flesh and blood...

Eph 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Who Are You Going to Listen to?

19. When the scoffing comes, many times it comes from our adversary – Satan - who comes to us and tells us: *It's too late – it's doomed to fail – you're a failure – God has left you...*
- a. And if we listen to him, he might just walk away from a great work God wants to do!

Satan: “It’s over”... God: “It’s going to rise!”

20. God is saying *‘stay cool... it’s not dead, it’s not over, it just sleeps’*

- a. See we see death as the end. A loved one dies... it’s all over, they’re gone!
- b. We see when something wonderful comes to an end, that’s it – it’s all over!
- c. We something terrible happen – that’s it - we’re doomed!

21. But God does not see things that way! God looks upon this life through His eternal eyes, and He knows that the end is NOT the end

- a. He even *promises us* that this is not the end.
- b. There will come a time, whether in this life or the next, that all things will be reconciled to God, made new, put back into alignment with God’s plan
 - i. *(Actually I believe all is now in the eternal perspective – there “past” or “future” with God – it’s all now... but that’s a later topic!)*

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

1 Cor 15:20-28

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

... For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet."

... Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Col 1:19-20

For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

Rev 21:5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."

22. So when Jesus said "Hey, make room, she's not dead, she's just sleeping" – He knew what He was talking about!

Reach out to Jesus

25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

23. See, when Jairus ran all of the scoffers out of the house (he was the one paying the bill!), THEN things started happening!

24. So if you are facing an impossible situation, and the enemy is telling you "it's hopeless", don't listen to him!

- a. **Do like Jairus – seek out Jesus! Hear what He says!**
- b. **Remove the scoffing and the doubt – and let Jesus take us by the hand, and we will rise!**

25. Or if you have been in a dark place for months or years, do like the woman did...

- a. **Press in – press through – break through whatever is hindering our path to Jesus.**
- b. **Reach out – touch His hem – and be healed!**

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