“Your faith can make you well” Matthew 9:18-30 Trinity 24 2026

Have you ever wondered if God still does the miraculous in our world today? Is it possible to have a life completely turned around by the grace and power of God? Is it possible to be dead, bleeding, or blind one moment and be alive, whole and able to see clearly for the first time in your life the next? Can God still change lives in an instant?

Today I want to focus on one sentence found in the context of 2 lives that were touched miraculously by the power of God. Jairus, a leader and elder in his local synagogue, a god-fearing man who had enjoyed the company of his beautiful daughter for 12 years, but who now faces the possibility of life without his precious little girl who has just died. An unnamed woman who for those same 12 years has suffered everyday of her life with a menstrual bleeding that will not stop. She has spent all her money on doctors and has never received any help. She has lived as a social outcast, because the Jewish people considered a woman unclean during her menstrual cycle. This has kept her out of the house of worship and away from the support of her spiritual community.

The sentence I want you to meditate and focus upon with me this morning is spoken by Jesus to the woman, but we can infer the same spirit and attitude in his interaction with both of the people mentioned in today’s text. Jesus said: “Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well.” Can faith make someone well? We know that there have been studies down to prove that people of faith and people who pray seem to heal faster and live better lives. Most people will agree that having a positive attitude can do wonders for a person, and to accomplish anything – you must believe that it is possible and go for it. But is faith really that important? And does it matter what you believe, or when you believe, or how you believe, or in whom you believe in?

And what of people who have plenty of faith, but never seem to be healed or get better?

Why did Jesus say these words to this woman? Why didn’t He say – I’ve made you well. That is what I want you to ponder with me today? But first, let’s read about these people, and let’s see what they have in common.

Have you ever felt totally desperate? Usually when we encounter problems in our lives we do not fall so far as to fall into desperation. As a man, I know my first reaction to a problem is to try and find the 5 or 6 possible alternative solutions to that problem. I analyze and study and look for ways to fix the problem myself.

But some problems are not fixable. It is those problems that can lead us into desperation. What we do in desperation determines whether we are men and women of faith, or merely religious. Look at the desperation of these characters.

Jairus has lost his precious daughter. She has died. End of story. Imagine the numbness of this man as he has lost a precious part of his life. In Jewish tradition this child would have needed to have been buried within the first 24 hours. Mourners came from the community to weep with the family. The house was full of commotion and activity as the parents were most certainly stunned and in shock. What do you do when your daughter has died? Do you stay with her body until she has been prepared for burial and put in the cold hard earth? Do you stay with the mourners and cry until you have no more tears to cry? Or do you reach out to the one person you have heard can do miracles? Jairus was desperate.

The bleeding woman had suffered for 12 years. 12 years ago, I was only 40 and my kids were in elementary school. Now my eldest daughter is graduated and is in university. A lifetime of memories can happen in 12 years.

During those years this woman had spent all her money and had sought out every medical cure she could find. The bleeding had only gotten worse. She was anemic all the time. She had no strength left in her body. She was at the end of the rope. There was no other alternative. There was no other place to turn, no other cure to try.

What about you? What about your situation? How desperate are you? You see I believe that no one is saved until they reach a point of desperation. Why cry out to a savior if you don’t believe that you need to be saved? Why ask for forgiveness if you don’t believe you have sinned? When it comes to salvation, no one is saved until they are desperate enough to realize that they cannot save themselves. How desperate are you for God to work in your life?

These individuals moved beyond their desperation. Some people can be desperate and can continue to wallow in their suffering. They would rather be miserable than changed. They are satisfied to live with the pain.

Now please don’t misunderstand me. I believe that there are times that God chooses to let a disease continue. Sometimes suffering comes for a very good reason, and God wants to use it for good in our lives. Not everyone is healed. Certainly, Paul cried out three times in desperation that God would heal him, and instead God gave Paul peace.

But these people moved out of desperation into discontentment. They were not satisfied with the status-quo. They were not content to ‘just live with it’. Something had to change. Jairus was so discontent that he got up from his own daughter’s funeral to search for a miracle. The woman was so discontent that she crawled her way through a large crowd just to get a touch of the Master’s robe. Discontentment can be a good thing. It is true that Paul said that he learned to be content in whatever circumstance he found himself in. He learned to live with a little and with a lot. He learned to be content when things

were going well, and when things were in an upheaval. God wants us to learn contentment as well.

The characters in today’s lesson moved from their desperation and discontentment towards Jesus. They sought direction. Notice how both went to the correct source for help. So often in our discontentment we are quick to run to something to help soften the feelings of discomfort. We may run to the mall and buy out the store. We may run to the refrigerator and eat a whole gallon of ice cream. We may run to the Television to shut down our minds and hearts. We may run to the internet and search for photographs of people that we can lust about in secret. But these individuals headed in the right direction. They moved towards Jesus. In what direction are you headed right now? Are you moving towards Jesus or away from Him? Have you given up your search?

Once they were in the presence of the Lord, they began to talk with Him. There was a two-way conversation that occurred between these individuals and Christ. So often our prayer life is one-way. We talk and talk and talk, but never listen. We ask, but never give Jesus the opportunity to respond. We don’t give Him the opportunity to reveal what it is in our hearts.

Jairus was blunt, but full of faith. He falls at the feet of Jesus in honor and submission to him and He says: ‘My daughter has just died, but if you will come and lay your hand on her, I know she will live.” Where did he get such faith? He recognized that Jesus wasn’t just an ordinary teacher or prophet. Jesus was someone who could do the impossible. If Jesus can’t or won’t help my daughter, then all is lost. There is no one else to seek. His prayer was specific, direct, and full of faith. And he rises to go with this man.

In the woman’s dialogue with Christ, at first, she only talks to God silently in her heart. “If I but touch his garment, I will be healed.” She does, and

instantly she is healed. Jesus sensing that power has flowed from Him to this woman turns and questions “Who touched me.” When she tells her story, Jesus comforts her with these powerful words: “Take heart, daughter, your faith has made you well.” I find those words to be so curious. Jesus does not say: “I’ve done it. I’ve healed you.” We know from the Bible that Jesus could not do many miracles in Nazareth because of their unbelief. And so, here as in several other places in the Bible, Jesus commends the faith of the seeker. Her faith led her to seek Jesus. Her faith believed that Jesus was who He said He was and the He alone could heal her. And in her faith, she was healed.

Faith and Prayer are forever linked. If I have faith, I will pray. If I do not have faith, I will not pray. If I feel that I have everything under control, why pray. If I don’t believe that any help will be coming my way from heaven, why pray. But if I believe that I need help, and that only God can supply what is needed, then I will be driven to pray. If I don’t believe anything is going to change, then why pray. But if I believe that God can move heaven and earth, and that He wants to change my life and the world around me, then I will pray!

As a believer, this same principle applies to everyday of my life. I must turn from myself and seek the Lord in whatever circumstance I find myself in, and as I do, He turns to me and delivers me. Sometime His deliverance is to give me more grace to handle the thorn in my flesh. Sometimes the deliverance is to move me away from the problem. But there is always deliverance when we turn to the Lord in faith. He still heals miraculously today. But will He find faith in our hearts. He still provides in our distress. We shall be made well. Amen.