

## JUST BELIEVE

Luke 8:40-56 (50)

“Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus,  
‘Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.’”

Today is Resurrection Sunday when we remember the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus’ resurrection is foundational to our faith. For not only does it prove that Jesus is the Son of God, (Rom 1:4) but it also shows that Jesus is the only one who can save us from the power of sin and death. Therefore, this morning we rejoice with Apostle Paul who said: “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:55-57)

But the question is: this victory over death that the resurrection of Jesus gives us ..... is it limited only to the day when we die?! What about here and now? Can the resurrection of Jesus positively impact our lives today? Yes, it can! In today’s passage, we will meet a man called Jairus and a sick woman. For starters, the woman suffered for 12 years from an incurable bleeding disease (12 Years!!) Whereas, Jairus’ 12 year old daughter was lying terminally ill on her deathbed. The situation for both of them were utterly hopeless. Yet, because Jesus rose from the dead, death did not have the final say in their respective situations! Instead, Jesus instantly healed the bleeding woman and miraculously raised Jairus’ dead little girl back to life!

You and I face many hopeless and seemingly impossible situations in our life, just like the bleeding woman and Jairus. Therefore, I pray that through today’s passage, the Lord’s resurrection power fills our hearts with hope that if we just believe, Jesus will work powerfully also in our lives. Amen!

Let’s look at verse 40. When Jesus returned to Galilee, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. A man called Jairus was among them. He was especially waiting anxiously for Jesus. Jairus had an only daughter, a girl of about twelve. But sadly she was dying. Of course, before coming to Jesus, Jairus took her to see the doctor. He even bought the most expensive medicine for her. He faithfully stayed and prayed at the bedside of his little princess! But nothing worked. Jairus could not bear the thought of his only daughter dying at such a young age. He loved her too much! If we place ourselves in Jairus’ shoes.....then we can begin to understand just how hopeless.....and sad.....he must have felt.

But then, in his despair, Jairus remembered hearing about Jesus; and all the miracles He performed. So Jairus exclaimed: *“Surely, Jesus can heal my little daughter!”* With new hope, Jairus jumped up and ran to where the crowd was waiting for Jesus. Then, out of sheer desperation, Jairus pushed his way through the crowd and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house to heal his daughter.

How did Jesus respond to Jairus’ desperate plea? Did Jesus tell Jairus to stay in line? Did He tell Jairus to wait his turn? No! Jesus immediately left the crowd and went with Jairus. Now, on the one hand, it is very comforting for us to see how Jesus immediately responded to Jairus’ plea. But on the other hand, we wonder why Jesus left behind the rest of the people who all came to seek His help, to help Jairus only. Why did Jesus respond in this way? It was because of Jairus’ faith in Jesus’ resurrection power. Let me explain.

Jairus was a synagogue ruler. This meant that he was a senior and respected citizen with a high social position in the community. In comparison, Jesus was blacklisted by the Jewish leaders. So humanly speaking, there was no way Jairus could publicly approach Jesus for help without losing his high social position. Nevertheless, Jairus not only came to Jesus but fell at the feet of Jesus, pleading with him to come heal his daughter. In this way, Jairus put everything on the line! How could he do this? It was because he was 100% convinced that Jesus had the power to heal his daughter! He had absolutely no doubt! **Here we can learn what faith in Jesus’ resurrection power looks like. It is to act with 100% conviction.....and with**

**0% doubt in our hearts....that Jesus can and will respond to our plea! When Jesus sees such faith, we can be sure that He will jump into action; just as He did with Jairus.**

Look at verse 42b. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds of people pushed in on Jesus from every side and almost crushed him. Amazingly, amid the crushing crowd was another person, who like Jairus, also had faith in the resurrection power of Jesus. This time, it was a woman who had been subject to bleeding. (43a) We do not know exactly where the bleeding occur, but some suggest it was possibly as a result of ovarian or cervical cancer that caused chronic menstrual bleeding. This chronic illness badly affected every part of her life. By the standards of Old Testament law, the woman's bleeding made her unclean. Therefore, nobody could be around her and she couldn't be around anyone. In fact, if she was caught around people, she would be stoned to death. Consequently, people detested and abandoned her. The worst part was that she was completely cut off from any and all access to God, as she was strictly forbidden from the temple.

In addition, the constant flow of blood drained her womanly beauty and turned her previously youthful face into that of a sickly old lady. Women are often compared to beautiful flowers. But not this woman. She lost all her beauty and became more like a dry and withered flower. This continued for twelve years. But no matter how many doctors she went to see, no one could heal her. (43b) Again, if we place ourselves in the woman's situation, we can begin to imagine how hopelessly lonely and miserable her life must have been!

Now, when we consider how long this woman had suffered, we would not blame her if she simply gave up hope of ever being healed. It would be understandable if she live with a fatalistic outlook on life saying: *'My life is like this. And there is nothing I can do about it.'* Amazingly, however, she did not give up! Just like Jairus, when the woman heard about Jesus, and how He healed many people with incurable diseases, hope shot up in her fatalistic heart. Then she also came to Jesus. Look at verse 44. She came up behind him and with all her strength pushed through the crowd. And when she finally reached Jesus, she reached out and touched the edge of his cloak.....and immediately her bleeding stopped. For twelve years no one could heal this woman. However, when she touched the edge of Jesus' cloak, she was cured "immediately." This shows us that her healing was not done by the power of any man. But by the [awesome] resurrection power of Jesus..... that flowed into her body. Wow! How awesome if that can happen to you and me; right!? To instantly have Jesus' resurrection power working in our lives! Indeed, it is possible. However, we must know that Jesus isn't a vending machine, to get what we want and then simply move on.

Look at verses 45-46. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, people are crowding and pressing against you." How can you ask, who touched me?! But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." (46) When we consider Jairus' dying little girl, we may wonder why Jesus seemingly wasted time to find the woman. We have to imagine that Jesus knew exactly that it was the bleeding woman who touched him. And that now, after 12 years she was healed! Isn't that is good enough!? Why did Jesus have to look for her in the chaos and also delay going to Jairus' house? It was because Jesus knew although the woman wasn't bleeding anymore..... the scars she suffered from..... were much deeper than just physical. For her chronic bleeding problem ran so deep within her heart that she still suffered from shame, fatalism, fear, and guilt. Jesus was not content to leave her like that. Instead, He wanted to not heal only her sick body but also her sin-sick heart.

Look at verse 47. Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. At first, the woman trembled in fear that Jesus would condemn her in accordance of the law, for touching him with her unclean hands! But when she poured out her story, Jesus did not condemn her but loved her. Then she began to feel clean for the first time in twelve years. She who had felt like the object of God's wrath was now testifying to the resurrection power of Jesus, who had made her instantly well. Her trembling surely changed to tears of joy!

Then Jesus made everything clear. Look at verse 48. Jesus called her “Daughter.” Previously, the woman was referred to as the unclean bleeding woman. Yet, after Jesus healed.....and forgave her sins..... the woman became a precious and beloved daughter of God. With this Jesus gave her a new identity!! Then he told her to go in peace. Something she did not know for 12 long and difficult years. But now, because of Jesus, she was freed from the pain, despair and fatalism she carried around in heart for all those years.

What an amazing account, right!? How graceful!! How encouraging. But how does this apply to you and me? Can we practically also share this woman’s experience of Jesus? Yes, we can! Look again at verse 48. Jesus said to the woman, your faith has healed you. **Here we can see that it is our faith or lack thereof that determines how we experience Jesus’ power in our lives.** Here again, we must ask: how do we know the woman had faith? As we said earlier, in terms of the Law, the woman was not allowed to be around anyone. In fact, if she was caught around people, she could be stoned to death. So humanly speaking, there was no way the woman could publicly approach Jesus.....let alone join the crowd of people without losing her life. Nevertheless, the woman pushed through the crowd to come up from behind Jesus. In this way, the woman put everything on the line! Why would she do this? It was because, she too, just like Jairus, was 100% convinced that Jesus had the power to heal her chronic bleeding problem! She too had absolutely no doubt! So she was convinced that all she needed to do was to touch the edge of Jesus cloak, then she would be healed. That was exactly what she did. And that was exactly what happened.

What about you and me? Like the crushing crowd around Jesus, we also crowd and press against Jesus today.....in a spiritual sense.....through prayer and serving in His ministry. Yet, like with so many people in the crowd of that day, we seem to miss out on the resurrection power of Jesus! Many times it seems as if Jesus answers only the prayers of brothers and sisters around us. Is it because Jesus loves them more? Or because Jesus forgot about us? Or perhaps He is busy and does not want to help us? Absolutely not! For it is our faith.....that moves Jesus.....it is our faith that extracts Jesus’ resurrection power into our lives.....and it is our faith that heals us from our shame, fatalism, fear, and guilt! Today, on this resurrection Sunday, let us firmly put our faith on Jesus! So we too can hear Jesus say to us: “*Daughter....or Son.....your faith has healed you. Go in peace!*”

At this point of the message, some of you may say: *but I did have faith on Jesus, just like the bleeding woman. But still, Jesus did not answer my prayer as He did with her.* When this happens we experience a spiritual crisis!! For why would Jesus seemingly ignore us but help others?! This was exactly what happened to Jairus. Look at verse 49. While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.” This was terrible news!! And exactly what Jairus wanted to prevent! At this, Jairus could have resented Jesus, thinking: “*I really trusted Jesus to heal my daughter. I humbled myself.....I fell at His feet and pleaded for help.....yet in the end my daughter died! Why did Jesus waste so much time with the bleeding woman? Why did he give me a false sense of hope that he will heal my dying daughter, if that was never His plan? Now it is too late and I only made a fool of myself by believing in Him!*”

But look at verse 50. Can we read today’s key verse together? Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” Instead of saying, “Don’t be sad”, or “Don’t despair”, Jesus said, “Don’t be afraid.” Jairus believed in Jesus. He believed Jesus would heal his daughter. That’s why he fell at Jesus’ feet and pleaded with him, without caring what people say. Moreover, his faith must have been strengthened as he listened to the bleeding woman’s testimony of how she was healed by merely touching the edge of Jesus’ cloak. .... However..... now..... he was afraid. Because, the situation went from bad to worse since he came to Jesus. For despite his faith, Jesus did not save his daughter? **We understand Jairus’ fear.** If we fail in things that we tried by faith, our hearts are greatly troubled. We begin to doubt God’s love... and we wonder if we should continue to live by faith in Jesus or not.

In this situation, what did Jesus promise Jairus? Look again at verse 50. Jesus promised Jairus that if he just believe, his daughter will be healed. But what exactly did it mean that Jairus should just believe? It meant

that regardless of the situation or what people said, Jairus had to continue to trust Jesus as he did before. People said: *your daughter is dead. So don't bother the teacher anymore.* "Now everything is over, what is the point to bother Jesus anymore?" At first, this seemed absolutely right! **But because Jesus is God who rose from the dead, they were dead wrong! And for Jairus to just believe meant that even if the little girl was dead, Jesus could and would still raise her from the dead! For Jesus it was not over yet! And contrary to what it looked like, Jesus was not done with Jairus yet.**

Indeed, when things do not work out even though we tried by faith, we tend to mistrust Jesus. However, to just believe is to trust Jesus to the end.....by never doubting His goodness and love. In that situation, this was not easy for Jairus to do. While his daughter was still alive, Jairus might have expected Jesus to heal her by laying on of His hands. However, how does anyone bring someone back from the dead? But Jesus promised Jairus if he just believe.....then Jesus would surely save her; even though Jairus did not know how. **In his darkest moment, Jesus gave Jairus this wonderful promise.**

Let's see what happened when Jairus firmly held on to Jesus' promise. Look at verses 51-52. When they arrived at Jairus' house, all the people were wailing and mourning for Jairus' little girl. At this Jairus' heart was shaken again! But to help Jairus hold His promise, Jesus said to the mourners, "Stop wailing. She is not dead but asleep." Of course, the crowd ridiculed Jesus. (53) But Jesus put them all out. (51) At this point Jairus struggled to trust Jesus..... to just believe in Jesus. The reality was so obvious. The girl was dead! Yet Jesus promised that He would heal her. There was a great war in Jairus' heart, to **just believe or just give up!** But then when Jesus entered the room where the girl lied, Jairus followed Jesus. Moment by moment, his faith was shaken by fear and doubt in the situation. But still, Jairus kept on following Jesus. Right to the end, he held on to Jesus' words, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

Let's see what happened next in verses 54-55. Jesus took her by the hand, and as if waking her up from a deep sleep, Jesus said: "My child, get up!" Then her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. And as proof that the girl was alive, Jesus told them to give her something to eat. It was an absolute miracle!! Is it possible for a dead person to come back to life? For us humans, it is impossible! But not for Jesus. Jesus is God Almighty who rose from the dead. Therefore, nothing is impossible for Jesus. If Jesus can raise the dead, then Jesus can help us in every and any situation. Therefore, we need not fear when He is slow to answer our prayers. We need not doubt His love or goodness. But just believe; like Jairus. Until the answer comes. Surely, Jairus could never have imagined that Jesus would heal his daughter in this way. But when Jesus did, he was left astonished.....and greatly impressed by Jesus. (56)

**In conclusion.** Jesus healed a bleeding woman whom no doctor could heal. He raised Jairus' dead daughter. This shows that Jesus is God Almighty who rose from the dead. Yes, Jesus defeated the power. Therefore, nothing is impossible for Jesus. To believe in Jesus means to continue trusting Him. It is to never doubt His love or goodness, no matter what the situation. People say life is too tough for a man or a woman of God to live in this world. However, the real problem is that our faith is too weak. **Jairus had faith.** However, his faith had a limitation. He believed Jesus could heal his daughter while she was still alive, but was not sure if He could raise her from the dead. But now, after seeing how Jesus raised his daughter from the dead, his faith grew stronger and was without any limitation. By holding on to Jesus' words till the end. By overcoming fear even when things grew worse, Jairus' faith grew in depth, width, and height. Right from the moment when Jairus fell at his feet, Jesus wanted to enhance his faith. If things grow from bad to worse we easily blame Jesus. But here we can learn that Jesus wants to grow our faith out of his deep love.

Of course, this is not easy. The woman who had a bleeding problem had to endure the pain of exposing her shameful sins to Jesus. Jairus had to patiently overcome the fear of being disappointed after trusting Jesus. However, when they followed Jesus' words till the end, they witnessed first-hand the resurrection power of Jesus in their lives? What about you and me? I pray that on this resurrection Sunday, Jesus' words may work in our hearts. "Don't be afraid..... just believe..... and your daughter will be healed."