



4/24/26

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished, we talked about a different aspect of God's authority over demons. We read a lot about demon possession this week, but the focus of the podcast was on the demon influences in our lives as believers. How do we take our stand against the devil's schemes? Hopefully, you'll find the answer to that on the podcast. If you'd like to listen, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

Also... just a side note... today's passage has a special place in my heart not only because it's such a beautiful picture of Jesus' authority displayed in compassion and love, but it's also the first passage I ever heard Tim preach. He was still an engineer at the time. It was about a month before we started dating. He started a large group bible study for the single adults in our church. I heard him preach this passage at the first meeting and he stole my heart at the same time. I'm excited to hear him preach it again this Sunday. He still has my heart.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 8:40-56

So far in this sermon series, I've learned of Jesus' authority to cover my sin, His authority over the wind and waves, His authority to cast out demons, and today I get to see His authority to heal.

In Luke 8, Jesus had just returned from the other side of the Sea of Galilee where He had cast out the demons called Legion from a Gentile man. It's clear that Jesus was there just for that purpose because He and the disciples never even went beyond the shoreline before the people asked them to leave. Wow. They didn't want Him there, but the Jews on the other side of the sea did... and they were waiting for Him to come back.

They didn't even know when He'd be back! But they waited. Maybe they had someone watching for His boat and that person would give a signal as soon as he saw it so that they could all come. However it happened, they were all there waiting for Him when He arrived, welcoming Him. I would bet they had a lot of excitement and joy when they greeted Him.

Jesus was more than halfway through His three-year ministry at this point. So I find it kind of surprising that Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet to ask Him for help. Most of the Jewish religious leaders were offended by Jesus and were already trying to discredit Him. But desperation will always change the way we think. Even proclaimed atheists will cry out to God when they're desperate.

Why was Jairus desperate? His only daughter was dying. She was only 12 years old. The ruler begged Jesus to come to his house. And Jesus went. There was no discussion like, "Oh! You mock Me and try to turn people against Me, but now when you need My help you're willing to come?" No... Jesus was gentle and humble and compassionate. He saw the pain of this father and He went with him.

But while they were heading to Jairus' house, the people were crowding around Jesus. He was a celebrity to them. And a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years with no answers from doctors came up behind Jesus and touched His robe. This woman was considered unclean. She was not supposed to be anywhere near people. If she had been caught, she would have been cut off from the Jewish community for the rest of her life, healing or no healing.

The moment she touched the fringe of Jesus' robe, she was healed. Wow. Maybe she could get out of there quickly without being seen, and then show up later after doing the cleansing rites and showing herself to the priests. But no... Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" I imagine her heart sank in that moment. What would be the punishment for her "crime"? Everybody around denied touching Jesus. I mean... in truth, they were all touching Jesus, which of course, Peter pointed out. I love how he always thought he knew better than Jesus... it gives me hope that God can change my life as He did Peter's.

Jesus said, "No. Someone touched Me. I can tell. Power has gone out from Me." Oh snap! The woman realized that she had not gotten away with it. She started trembling and fell down before Jesus and told Him why she touched Him and that she was healed.

I just have to stop here for a second. Two people fell at Jesus' feet in those few minutes. They were on two opposite extremes of the social view of worth. Jairus was a highly respected religious ruler. The woman was a highly disrespected and disregarded unclean woman. But there is no second place at the foot of the cross. Jesus loved them both the same.

Jesus looked at this trembling woman and spoke to her with deep respect and honor. I can only imagine the sweet, compassionate look in His eyes when He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace." That's just beautiful. I know from a different healing at the pool of Bethesda, when Jesus healed a man who seemed to have no faith... that the bigger deal was not that this woman believed Jesus could heal her, but that she believed in who He was. Truly every person Jesus healed, even the ones He raised from the dead, still eventually physically died. But our faith in Him as Lord heals us of the eternal disease of sin.

I can only imagine the delight and relief and joy this woman felt when Jesus called her "Daughter." He could have just let her go and not said a word. But He loved her. He wanted her to know, "You are not unclean to Me. I see you. You matter to Me. I call you Daughter." That's what faith in Jesus does. Our uncleanness never makes Him unclean. His cleanness makes us clean.

Well, the "daughter" may have gone away in peace, but Jairus was immediately told that HIS daughter had just died. "YOUR daughter is dead. Don't trouble the teacher anymore." Did Jairus think at that moment, "If only Jesus would have ignored that unclean woman!!!"? But he didn't have much time to think because Jesus said to him, "Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be saved."

Jairus must have gotten a huge burst of hope in that moment. I know this because he took Jesus to his house. He didn't say, "No. It's too late." He didn't let pride stop him. They went to the house. It doesn't matter what Jesus is doing in someone else's life, He always has room for me, too, just as He had room for Jairus and his daughter.

When they got to the house, Jesus told everyone else to stay outside, except for the girl's parents and Peter, James, and John. Everyone was crying and mourning as, of course, they would be! But Jesus said, "Don't weep. She's not dead. She's sleeping." So... was she not dead? She WAS physically dead. Jesus said the same thing to the disciples about Lazarus when he died. They didn't get it, so Jesus said, "I mean... he is dead, but dead doesn't stop Me. I'm gonna go wake him up." That's what Jesus was about to do for this little girl.

Just like the disciples didn't get it in John 11, these mourners didn't get it in Luke 8. They literally laughed at Jesus. They KNEW she was dead! How often do I treat Jesus as though I know better than He does??? NOTHING is impossible for Him!!!

Jesus went with her parents and the three disciples, and He took the girl by her hand. I imagine her parents gasped when He took her hand. Touching her would make the Master unclean, wouldn't it? No. Jesus makes the unclean clean. The unclean cannot make Jesus unclean.

The moment Jesus took the little girl by the hand, He said, "Child, arise!" And she arose!!! I bet Jesus was laughing with joy at the immediate rush of joy that came upon the parents as they saw their little girl get up!!! He was probably still laughing when He said, "Get this little girl something to eat." I wonder if that memory crossed the minds of Peter, James, and John about a year later when He asked them for something to eat so that they would believe He had truly risen from the dead.

Jesus told the parents not to tell anyone. I wonder how long that secret lasted. Hmmm...

Who do I relate to more? Jairus or the unclean woman? It really doesn't matter. Either way, I see that Jesus cared for both of them. It doesn't matter if the world gives me the respect

due a ruler or the disrespect poured out on the disregarded. I matter to Jesus. What does He want from me? Does He want me to do all kinds of things to earn His help? No. He just wants me to trust Him. O Lord, like Jairus and the healed woman, I pray that I will be found humbly sitting at Your feet... not just when I feel desperate, but always. The truth is, I'm ALWAYS desperate for You! And You're always faithful!