Matt. 9:18-26, "Death is Not the..." by Rev. Paul Hudson

The Miracles of Jesus in Matthew Summary, Sermon Notes Handout, Daily Devotional, Study Questions, & Crossword, 11/8/26

Summary

Big Idea

Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, faith reaches him even when it seems too late, and death does not get the final word for those who belong to him.

Matthew 9:18-26 holds two miracles together: a synagogue leader comes in bold faith for his daughter, while an unclean woman reaches for Jesus' tassel. Her touch of the kanaph carries messianic hope from Malachi's promise of healing in his rays. Rather than being defiled or rebuking her, Jesus compassionately calls her daughter and honors her faith.

At the leader's house, Jesus neither denies the harsh reality of death nor lets it have finality. He tells mourners the girl is asleep, takes her unclean hand, and raises her. His holiness invades death and brings life. Believers grieve, yet trust that they have crossed from death to life, will be with Christ, and await resurrected bodies. The sermon ends with Jesus' three definitions of death: Death as sleep; spiritually dead; and dead but alive with God.

Keys and Themes

1. Faith Reaches Jesus

The synagogue leader came worshipfully and kept petitioning Jesus even after his daughter died. The kingdom is not about merit or being good enough; it is about faith in the King.

2. Healing at the Kanaph

The woman touched the tassel at Jesus' garment corner, trusting the Messiah's promised healing. Though unclean and violating public expectations, she believed she would be healed rather than cursed.

3. Compassion Instead of Defilement

Jesus did not recoil from the woman's uncleanness or the girl's corpse. His divine holiness enters unclean places, revives, restores, and brings newness of life rather than becoming defiled.

4. Grief and Eternal Perspective

Death is harsh, and loved ones must grieve honestly rather than pretending death is unreal. Yet Jesus calls physical death sleep because, for his people, death is temporary and not final.

5. Death Disarmed in Christ

Believers depart to be with Christ and await resurrected bodies like Jesus' resurrected body. The Spirit is the guarantee of eternal life until heaven and earth merge without death.

Sermon Notes Handout

Sermon Title: Death is Not the End | **Scripture:** Matt. 9:18-26

Point 1: Faith Comes to Jesus

Fill in the blank: “Faith still reaches to Jesus even when it seems too ____.”

Question: Where does faith seem too late?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 2: The Woman Reaches

Fill in the blank: “She had faith that Jesus was the ____.”

Question: What did her touch proclaim?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 3: Make Room for Grief

Fill in the blank: “Let grief help you let your loved one go.”

Question: Have you let sorrow do its work?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 4: Jesus Reframes Death

Fill in the blank: “In Jesus’ kingdom, death is not the ____.”

Question: How does Jesus reframe death?

Notes:

_____

_____

Point 5: Live Beyond Death

Fill in the blank: “Death does not get the final ____.”

Question: Where can you carry Christ's life?

Notes:

_____

_____

Reflection Question: How does Jesus' authority over death reshape both your grief and your hope?

Next Step: Speak freely of Jesus and carry his life into one fearful or grieving relationship this week.

Family Discussion Question: Why did Jesus call the girl asleep, and what hope does that give believers?

Daily Devotional

Sunday — Faith When It Seems Too Late

Scripture: Matthew 9:18-19

The synagogue leader came to Jesus in a worshipful posture and asked him to lay hands on his daughter. The parallel accounts tell us she died while Jesus was on the way, yet the leader still petitioned Jesus. His faith reached toward Jesus even when the situation appeared too late. The kingdom of heaven is about faith in the King, not merit or being a good person. Jesus responded to that faith by getting up and going with him. Bring to Jesus what looks beyond repair, trusting his authority is not limited by the moment.

Reflect Questions:

1. What situation feels too late for faith?

2. Will you bring that need to Jesus?

Monday — Healing in His Rays

Scripture: Matthew 9:20-22; Malachi 4:2

The woman did not merely touch any part of Jesus' clothing. She reached for the tassel on the corner, the kanaph, of his garment. Those tassels reminded Israel to obey the Lord and remain holy, while Malachi's promise spoke of healing in the Messiah's kanaph, his rays. Unclean because of her bleeding, she believed the Messiah would heal rather than curse her. Jesus turned toward her with compassion: "Take heart, daughter." Her bold faith found healing in the King she trusted.

Reflect Questions:

1. What does the woman's touch reveal about Jesus?

2. Where do you need bold faith?

Tuesday — Holiness That Invades Uncleanness

Scripture: Matthew 9:22, 25; Numbers 15:37-40

By the Law's pattern, the woman's touch brought uncleanness, and touching a dead body brought defilement. Yet Jesus is not overcome by either. He does not chastise the woman for touching him; he calls her daughter. He does not avoid the little girl's body; he takes her hand and she rises. His divine holiness invades wherever it goes. It breaks in and revives, restores, and brings newness of life. Jesus stepped into the unclean realm of death itself and came back to life. His life is stronger than what defiles and destroys.

Reflect Questions:

1. How does Jesus meet unclean people here?

2. What needs Christ's restoring life today?

Wednesday — Let Grief Do Its Work

Scripture: Matthew 9:23-24

Jesus entered a house filled with the sounds of death: mourners, pipes, wailing, and lament. The sermon does not dismiss grief as weakness or pretend death is not real. Death is a harsh reality in this world, and sorrow needs room to do its full work. If grief has been held captive, the invitation is to break the bottle and let it go into the hands of the Lord. We grieve because loss is real. But we do not grieve as though death gets the final word over those who belong to Jesus.

Reflect Questions:

1. Have you given grief room to work?

2. What loss can you place in God's hands?

Thursday — Death Is Disarmed

Scripture: Matthew 9:24-25; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Jesus called the girl's death sleep, not because she was merely resting, but to reframe death with an eternal perspective. Physical death remains real and final for those left behind, yet it is not the end of our being in Jesus' kingdom. Jesus took the girl by the hand and raised her, displaying authority over humanity's bitter enemy. Because he beat death, death is disarmed for believers. Outwardly we may waste away, but inwardly we are renewed day by day. Fix your eyes on what is unseen and eternal.

Reflect Questions:

1. How does Jesus' language reshape your fear?

2. What unseen reality needs your attention?

Friday — From Spiritual Death to Life

Scripture: Matthew 8:21-22; John 3:5; Ephesians 2:5

Jesus also speaks of people who are physically living but spiritually dead. When he said, "Let the dead bury their own dead," he described the need for spiritual life and the true state of those who are living but spiritually dead. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. Faith in Jesus alone awakens our spirit to life. God, rich in mercy, makes us alive with Christ even when we are dead in transgressions. Your new life in Christ is a resurrection miracle that still happens today. It is not earned through merit; it is received by grace through faith in the King.

Reflect Questions:

1. Where do you see spiritual death around you?

2. Have you trusted Jesus for new life?

Saturday — With Christ, Awaiting Resurrection

Scripture: John 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:36-38

Jesus says the one who hears his word and believes has crossed from death to life. When believers die, they are away from the body and at home with the Lord, departing to be with Christ. This is not limbo, Sheol, or a realm of waiting apart from God's presence. Yet the hope continues: our earthly body is like a seed, sown in death and raised in resurrection. We await new bodies bearing the image of the heavenly man, Jesus, when the new heaven and new earth merge and death is no more.

Reflect Questions:

1. What does being with Christ after death mean?

2. How does resurrection shape your present hope?

Study Questions

Read Matt. 9:18-26 and listen to the sermon "Death is Not the End" (11/8/26)

Observation

1) What request did the synagogue leader make of Jesus?

2) What did the woman touch, and what did she expect?

3) How did Jesus respond to the woman after seeing her?

4) What did Jesus do after putting the crowd outside?

Interpretation

1) Why does the sermon call the leader's approach bold faith?

2) How did the woman's touch of the kanaph express messianic faith?

3) Why does Jesus describe the girl's death as sleep? What about Jesus' three definitions of death

4) How do the sermon and scripture references describe what happens when believers die?

Application

1) Where do you need faith to reach toward Jesus despite seeming delay?

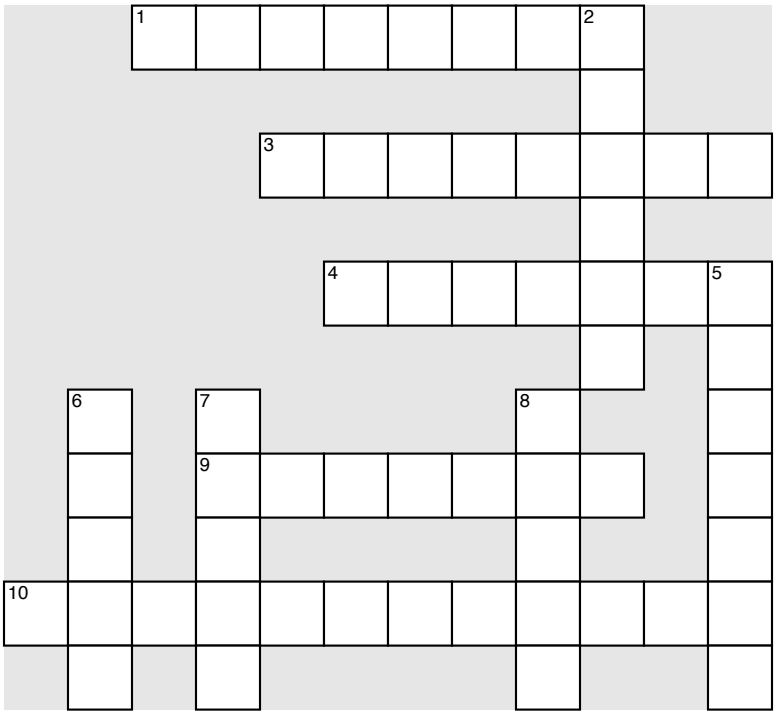
2) How can you make room for grief without treating death as final?

3) What does being made alive with Christ change about your daily life?

4) How can you visibly carry Christ's life into fearful and grieving places?

Crossword Puzzle

Death is Not the End | Matt. 9:18-26 | 11/8/26



Across

1. Professionals wailing at the house
3. Where the thief would be with Christ
4. The woman trusted Jesus as this
9. What unseen things are called
10. Jesus' victory over death displayed here

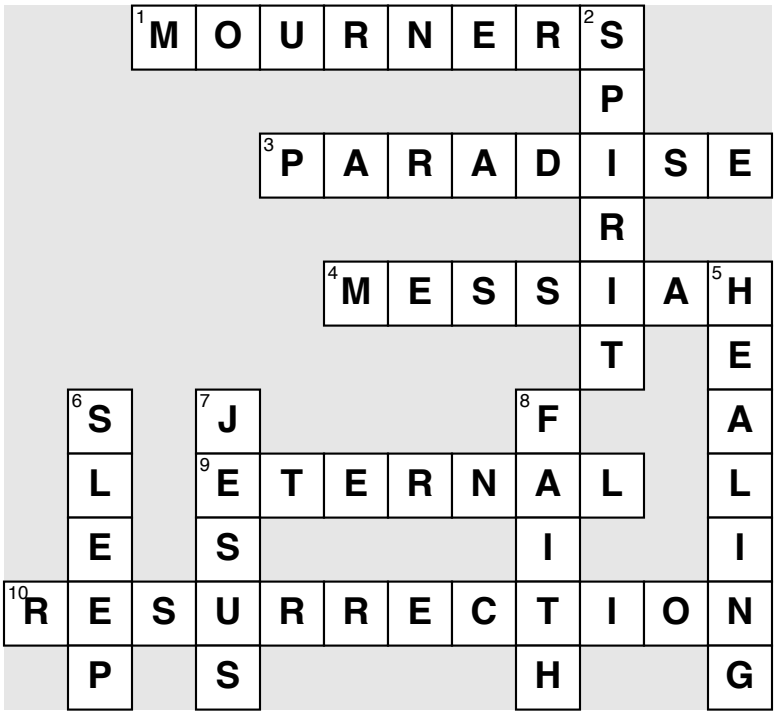
Down

2. Who awakens believers to life
5. What the woman expected from Jesus
6. Jesus' image for physical death
7. The King who raises the girl
8. What moves the King in this sermon

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Crossword Answer Key

Death is Not the End | Matt. 9:18-26 | 11/8/26



Across Answers

1. MOURNERS
3. PARADISE
4. MESSIAH
9. ETERNAL
10. RESURRECTION

Down Answers

2. SPIRIT
5. HEALING
6. SLEEP
7. JESUS
8. FAITH