

But taking her by the hand, Jesus called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. (Luke 8:54-55)

Almighty One, you are our sure hope and confidence. You bring life out of death and healing to the sick. We give thanks for your healing love. In gratitude, we ask that you would fill us with all hope and courage that we would boldly proclaim your power to give life. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

Jesus was called in an emergency to heal a sick young girl. But on his way, he was delayed by a woman who was also in need of healing. When he stopped to heal this woman, time ran out for the little girl, and she died. Was it too late? Or would Jesus have the power to help the little girl as well?

Read: Luke 8:40-56

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

Throughout his ministry among the people, Jesus demonstrated the active power of God by performing miracles and signs, such as healing the sick, casting out demons, commanding the elements, and raising the dead to life.

Jesus is shown to have divine mastery over the forces of darkness — including sin, death, and the power of the devil. This is reason he came into the world, "that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Hebrews 2:14-15).

Jesus revealed his power by healing all sorts of diseases and conditions. In today's lesson, we see two examples, one a young girl and the other an older woman. Jesus gives us reason to look to him in our own needs. (Romans 6:23).

Discussion Questions

1. There are two overlapping healing stories in this text. What did the two people healed have in common? On the other hand, how were their situations and their interaction with Jesus different?
2. How is the sick girl's father, Jairus, described in verse 41? What kind of standing or reputation do you think he had in the community? What do you think the people thought about the interrupting woman? Did that affect the way Jesus treated her?
3. How was the woman in the crowd healed? What does this story tell us about the power of Jesus? Why do you think she suddenly became afraid?
4. In verse 48, what did Jesus say to the woman? Is faith a quantity of "something" this woman possessed? Or was her faith a trust in something outside of herself? Why is this difference important?
5. What do you think was going through Jairus' head when Jesus stopped to take care of this other woman, instead of going straight to help his daughter? Do you ever get impatient with God because he doesn't do things as fast or in the way you want?
6. At the house, why did the people laugh at Jesus? What were they thinking?
7. The Bible often uses "sleep" as a metaphor for death. This is especially true in Jesus' teachings. How is calling death "sleep" different from describing it as *destruction* or *termination*? What does the image of sleep imply?
8. Read Psalm 30:1-5. To whom does the writer look for help? What does he mean when he says "you restored me to life" (v. 3)? In what way does God do this for *us* in our present lives? In what way is this also a literal promise of the life to come?