

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 8: 40-48

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the Bible again. We will continue reading Luke Chapter 8 and today we will read verses 40 to 48.

After Jesus cast out the demons in the region of the Gerasenes, because He was not accepted by the local people, He took His disciples and got into the boat, returning to the west side of the Sea of Galilee. So at the beginning of verse 40, when Jesus returned, it should have been back to Capernaum again.

Verse 40: "So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him."

When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him, because they were all waiting for Him. On the east side of the Sea of Galilee, in the area mixed with Gentiles, it was a place not welcoming to the gospel; now returning to Capernaum, which was the center of Jesus' work at that time, everyone welcomed Him. Surely the disciples in their hearts were very joyful—returning home felt truly good.

Verse 41: "And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house,"

In chapter 7 we read about a centurion in Capernaum who had great faith, and even the Jewish elders considered him a good man; he enabled them to build a synagogue. This Jairus was very likely the ruler managing that very synagogue they built. He could be said to be a person of relatively high social status among the Jews, recognized and commended by others, and thus appointed to manage the synagogue. When he knew Jesus had returned, he hurried to Jesus' feet and

immediately fell down very humbly. Why so humble? Because he had a very urgent need—he wanted Jesus to come to his house.

Verse 42a: “for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.”

A child from a noble family, twelve years old—we can imagine she had lived twelve years of happy childhood. Her father loved her deeply; when she fell ill and was dying, Jairus hurried to find Jesus and fell at Jesus’ feet. Compared to that Roman centurion, Jesus marveled at how great the centurion’s faith was—just one word from Jesus, and his servant would be healed. Jairus seems not to have had such great faith; he asked Jesus to come to his house and lay hands on his daughter, and Jesus went.

Faith comes from our real situation; there is no need to pretend—you pray according to how much faith you have. Jesus knows our situation; He also sympathizes with our weakness. He went toward Jairus’ house according to what Jairus requested.

Verse 42b: “But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him.”

Because Jesus was already somewhat famous in Capernaum, many people with needs rushed to Him when He came, but even more were just there to watch. They were merely curious; they themselves had no special need, yet they liked crowding around Jesus, so the crowd thronged Him.

Verse 43: “Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any,”

What is very special is that the little girl earlier lived twelve years of happy life, then fell ill and was dying; therefore her father Jairus asked Jesus to come to his house to heal her. On the way, there happened to be another woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years. In Leviticus 15:25–30 (NKJV) it tells us that one who has a flow of blood is unclean. Once she had this unclean disease and could not be healed, she had to separate from people. Therefore this woman lived twelve very painful years, isolated from others. She also wanted to be healed, and she had spent all her livelihood on physicians, yet no one could heal her.

If someone had such diseases requiring isolation, everyone in the city would know. Therefore some commentators feel this woman was not from Capernaum itself but came from elsewhere; she was also in this crowded crowd. Precisely because she herself had this unclean flow of blood, she felt inferior in heart and did not dare boldly come before Jesus to seek healing.

Verse 44: “came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped.”

She must have heard of Jesus’ works, knowing Jesus could heal diseases and cast out demons; she also believed strongly that Jesus could heal her. Because she had already exhausted all her livelihood, she had no other hope; when a person reaches the end, she can only come before the Savior Jesus. And because she had this unclean flow of blood, she did not dare come boldly before Jesus to ask Him. She thought: If I just touch the border of His garment, I can be made clean. So while the crowd thronged Jesus, she squeezed in with difficulty and touched the border of Jesus’ garment—not even touching His clothes.

The border of the garment refers to some tassels added at the bottom of the robe; usually more pious Jews would add some blue tassels at the lower end of their clothes. Touching the clothes should feel nothing; touching the border of the garment should be completely unnoticeable. She probably calculated that in this way no one would know, and her disease could be healed; her faith was truly great.

Sure enough, as soon as her hand touched, her flow of blood immediately stopped. It was not that Jesus' garment border could heal; it was because she had faith.

Verse 45: "And Jesus said, 'Who touched Me?' When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, 'Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"

Peter must have felt Jesus' question unreasonable—so many people thronging Jesus, how could He still ask who touched Him? Weren't many people touching Him? People crowding around God do not receive grace; only the one who in faith is willing to touch God—even just touching the border of His garment—Jesus immediately feels power go out from Him.

Verses 46–47: "But Jesus said, 'Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.' Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately."

This woman with the unclean flow of blood originally did not dare be among the crowd at all, because she had to be separated and isolated. Because of Jesus' question, she felt she could no longer hide, so she came trembling and fell down before Jesus, declaring before all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

Actually, did Jesus not know this woman touched Him? He is the Son of God—of course He knew. But why did Jesus specially ask this question? His question even made Peter feel somewhat impatient and unreasonable—so many people thronging You, how can You say someone touched You? Those who thronged did not feel anything, but Jesus knew, and the one who touched Jesus also knew—why? Because her disease was healed.

For this woman, perhaps what she wanted was only healing from her disease; but for Jesus, He wanted to give her much more. Healing from the disease was only a means; Jesus let this woman come into contact with Him; but what He wanted to give this woman was not just healing from disease, but eternal life. Therefore He specially asked: “Who touched Me?” He wanted this woman no longer to follow Him shamefully and hiddenly; He wanted her to publicly acknowledge before everyone that her disease had been healed. She no longer needed to be isolated; she had completely received God’s grace. It may seem as if Jesus was forcing her to publicly acknowledge; but on the contrary, through such public acknowledgment, her days of shame passed; her disease was healed; she no longer needed isolation.

Verse 48: “Then He said to her, ‘Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.’”

This is what Jesus wanted after the whole miracle. We have any need—only Jesus places us in circumstances to let us know we need the Savior. When you bring your need before Jesus and He satisfies your need, do not hurry to leave—these are only the beginning.

Jesus wants to use all kinds of needs to let you know, to let you recognize that besides your need being met, what you need more is the salvation of eternal life, so that life may grow in you. Let your faith in Jesus Christ grow through all kinds of circumstances and things; then we can go in peace. The message of great joy is not just that our disease is healed, not just that our needs are met; more importantly, we receive faith; when faith grows, our life can grow accordingly.

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. Help us bring all our various needs before You; through all kinds of needs, we can have some subjective, intimate fellowship with You. Lord, also help us not to fix our eyes on our needs; after the needs are met, let us more recognize that You are the only need in our life. With You we have faith; with You we have peace. Help my life this day to be a life full of faith, peace, and joy. We pray in the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.