

Week Three of Advent 2019

POWER TOUCH

Matthew 9:18-26; Luke 8:40-56



The Virtue of Desperation as a Crowd Breaker

Desperation prioritizes everything

Turns casual touch to intentional touch

Laser focuses hope

We are desperate for God

The illusion of stability and safety

Apart from Me you can do nothing: **John 15:5**

I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me: **Philippians 4:13**

Two Stories of Desperation

Synagogue Leader Jairus' Dying Daughter: Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

The Woman with the Issue of Blood: Luke 8:43-48

The intertwining of these stories

An exercise in compare and contrast (see reverse side)

These stories belong together

Why Do These Two Stories Belong Together?

Connected in all Three Synoptic Gospels: **Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56**

One: chronological reporting

The nature of the Gospels does not require this

Two: a commentary on divine interruption

God cannot be sidetracked, thwarted

When something goes wrong, when hope is choked

"My Father is working until now and I am working" **John 5:17**

"But if not..." **Daniel 3:17,18**

A resurrection people refuses to lose hope, even in the darkest hour

Three: a revelation of the Parent-heart of God

As Jairus loved his dying daughter, so Jesus loved the dying woman

Good parents touch their children

Good parents are touched by their children

Christmas as the Quintessential Story of Touch

God reaches down, becomes flesh, and touches (*Immanuel*) a desperate world

He comes as a vulnerable baby that must be touched to survive

"What we have looked up and touched with our hands" **1 John 1:1**

In Jesus we have been given a sure hope that what we are most desperate for is ours in Him

"For all who receive Him to them is given the right to become children of God" **John 1:12**

As children our hope is not ambivalent wishing; it is expectant waiting

Jairus' Daughter Story and the Bleeding Woman Story

Compare and Contrast

Luke 8:40-56

Compare

Jairus' Daughter Story	Bleeding Woman Story
12 years old: v.42	12 years long: v.43
Dying girl: v.42	Dying woman: v.43
"Daughter" of Jairus: v.42	Jesus calls the woman "Daughter": v.48
On her deathbed: v.42, 49	Bankrupt, at the end of her rope: v.43
Crowd obstructing Jesus' healing: v.52,53	Crowds obstructing Jesus: v.42,45
Healing done in private: v.51,56	In anonymity: v.44,45
Immediately returned to life: v.55	She was immediately healed: v.44

Contrast

Jairus' Daughter Story	Bleeding Woman Story
Named: Jairus: v.41	Not named: v.43
Jairus was the ruler of a Synagogue: v.41	Woman was ceremonially unclean: Lev 15:25ff
Jairus directly asks Jesus for help: v.41	Woman sneaks up behind Jesus quietly: v.44
Jesus touches her hand: v.54	Woman touches the fringe of Jesus' garment: v.44
Give her something to eat: v.55	Go in peace: v.48