

Main Passage: Matthew 9:18-26

Theological Theme

God can miraculously restore all areas of our lives.

Introduction

- Greg's story gained fame through the internet, but there are likely stories like this in our own community. Does anyone know of someone who was miraculously healed in our church or community?
- What biblical accounts of miraculous healing stand out to you?

1. Jairus's Faith (Matthew 9:18-19)

The events we'll read in our study today are recorded in all three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke, identified as such because of the similar material contained in the writings). This is an indicator that the Gospel writers believed these were significant events, and helpful to their goal of aiding the reader in understanding the truth about Jesus and then, consequently, believing in and following Him.

- Read the other gospel accounts of this event (Mark 5:22-24; Luke 8:41-42). What similarities and differences do you notice?
- What do we learn about Jairus's character? Why was his position significant?
- Application: When have you felt a desperate level of faith—when you knew God was able to do something about a situation and you eagerly sought that He would? What happened?

2. The Woman's Faith (Matthew 9:20-22)

How different the last twelve years of this woman's life looked compared to Jairus the synagogue leader. For the last twelve years, while Jairus had been enjoying the blessing of his only daughter (Luke 8:42), this woman had been suffering (v. 20). Mark and Luke's account of this story add extra details about her life. She had spent all the money she had on many doctors, enduring much (Mark 5:26), and no one could heal her. This was a woman at the end of her rope.

- Read the other Gospel accounts of this event (Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48). What similarities and differences do you notice?
- What do we learn about the woman's character? What do you make of her decision to touch Jesus's garment but not speak to Him? What does that speak of her faith but also possibly her pain?
- Application: Have you ever had a moment of faith when you acted in courage? What happened?

3. Spreading Faith (Matthew 9:23-26)

Consider when Jesus stopped His journey to Jairus's house to interact with the woman with the issue of blood. In Mark and Luke's accounts, the fuller details could be read as though Jesus wasn't in a hurry. He made time for the woman, and Jairus was left to be patient, and though Matthew didn't specify, if we put ourselves in Jairus's shoes, we might imagine him on edge, maybe even frantic. But God doesn't work on our timeline. His timing is always better.

- Read the other Gospel accounts of this event (Mark 5:35-43; Luke 8:49-56). What similarities and differences do you notice?
- Compare Jesus's response to those who were not showing faith to those who did. Which group would you likely be in?
- Application: Have you ever had to wait through a tense season for God to work in your life? What happened?

Conclusion

- Where do you currently need to come to Jesus, even in an "unclean" state? How can we have confidence that He will respond in love and grace?
- How can we support one another in going to Jesus in faith for the things we need?
- How might living with this type of faith give us further opportunities for gospel conversations?