

“PEOPLE HURTING; JESUS PROVIDES HEALING”

Sunday, November 15, 2009

Text: Matthew 9:18-38

INTRODUCTION:

A few years ago as I was a part of a response team that went to Bay Saint Louis after Katrina, as we were traveling along I-10 on our way to New Orleans there was a large billboard which caught my eye. It stands high above the city just as you start up the Mississippi River bridge. On it is a picture of Jesus Christ hanging on the cross of Calvary, with His head bowed. There was a caption underneath in bold letters that said, “IT’S YOUR MOVE!”

As I looked at that billboard what came to my mind was, “.....what a powerful and challenging thought.” We must realize that God has already taken the initiative in salvation. Christ died for us. Now — it’s our move!

In many of the instances where we see the supernatural work of Christ in men’s lives, it is man that takes the first step to make contact with Christ. What is apparent in these first few verses is that we have a father (Jarius) who comes to Christ for the healing of his daughter. Then there is the woman with the issue of blood, who in spite of all obstacles presses through the crowd to touch Jesus. The words in the previous illustration take on a personal meaning in the lives of these two people. They were willing to, “**MAKE A MOVE TOWARD JESUS.**”

I. DEATH AND DISTRESS BOTH OVERCOME! Vv.18-26

V.18 While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.”

“....**a ruler**” This man was a leader in the synagogue, he would have been responsible to select the person who would stand before the people to read the word.

“....**worshiped Him**” prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore), the most personal act of showing affection for someone.

“....**lay on Your hand**” this is a plea by a father for Jesus to put upon (take control of) his daughter.

V.19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so *did* His disciples.

“....**Jesus rose**” was awakened by the plea of a father for his child.

“....**followed**” to be in the same way or to have the same mind. Jesus was feeling the hurt and the heart of this father.

V.20 And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment.

“....**suddenly**” this was an imperative for this woman, her faith compelled her to push ahead. What a wonderful lesson for us this morning, to come to a point in our lives where recognize that our only hope, solution in life is to reach out and touch Jesus.

“....**touched**” meaning she attached herself to Jesus, even if it was by slightly touching the hem of his cloak.

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V.21 For she said to herself, “If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.”

”...**well**‘ to be made whole as the result of Christ preserving her.

V.22 But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, “Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that hour.

”...**cheer**‘ to have courage.

”...**faith**‘ reliance on Christ and assurance that Christ can meet the need and expectation that one has.

23 When Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing,
24 He said to them, “Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him.
25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.
26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

”...**noisy crowd wailing**‘ This is important because there are those who would say that this girl was not dead, but just asleep or in a coma. Those who were there had already begun the mourning process. Two groups, one at the head of the body and the other at the feet. There was a song of mourning that was sung and instruments to accompany them.

II. BLIND, YET SEEING THROUGH GENUINE FAITH! Vv.27-31

V.27 When Jesus departed from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out and saying, “Son of David, have mercy on us!”

”...**crying out**‘ they were screaming and yelling as loud as possible to get His attention.

”...**have mercy**‘ by His divine grace to show compassion on them.

V.28 And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.”

”...**do you believe**‘ are you willing to put your full trust and confidence into the hand of another?

”...**able**‘ have both the power and ability to accomplish this healing.

V.29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.”

”...**according to**‘ He we can assume that what happened in these men’s lives was a cooperation of Christ willingness to heal and their wanting all that the Lord had for them.

V.30 And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, saying, “See *that* no one knows *it*.”

”...**sternly warned**‘ Jesus strongly urged them not to make this public in light of what He wanted to accomplish.

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V.31 But when they had departed, they spread the news about Him in all that country.

”....**spread**‘ literally to blaze abroad, to spread and make common knowledge.

III. DEMONSTRATION OVER THE DEMONIC! Vv.32-34

V.32 As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed.

”....**demon-possessed**‘ it was the interest of Satan to hide his influences under the appearance of natural disorders.

V.33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!”

”....**multitudes**‘ these were everyday people who had heard about Jesus and were curious about who he was and what he was doing.

”....**marveled**‘ to have a great admiration for someone.

V.34 But the Pharisees said, “He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons.”

”....**Pharisees**‘ it is important to remember that these men were separatist, for them anything that was outside of their expertise, explanation or experience was always suspect. Obviously the casting out of demons was foreign to their experience.

IV. A MANDATE FOR THE MULTITUDES! Vv.35-38

V.35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

”....**went about**‘ has the idea of encompassing as well as seeking to lead in another or the right direction.

At this point we can see that Jesus ministry was denoted by three important characteristics:

1. First was His teaching.
2. Second was His preaching.
3. Lastly was His healing.

V.36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

”....**compassion**‘ Jesus was moved with pity for the condition of the people. They were a flock but with no one to give them direction and meaning for their very existence in life.

”....**weary**‘ meaning to be scattered and cast off or discarded. It can also mean to be thrown away as having no worth.

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V.37 Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few.

”...**harvest**‘ a crop ready to be reaped or to be taken up before it becomes rotten on the ground.

”...**plentiful**‘ there is more than enough to go around.

”...**laborers**‘ someone who is willing to toil at teaching others.

V.38 “Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

”...**pray**‘ make a request through continual petition.

CONCLUSION:

1. The harvest God provides: "Seedtime and harvest...shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22).
2. The harvest sin produces: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7)
3. The Gospel harvest: "They (fields) are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).
4. The harvest of judgment: "The harvest is the end of the age" (Matt. 13:39).