

Certificate in Children's Ministry - Denmark

Evening prayer Saturday 1st Feb 25

Jesus & Children 3

Weber H-R, *Jesus and the children*, Treehaus (US publisher)

Prayers of thanks for the day

Song (Taize)

Bless the Lord my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord my soul
Who leads me into life

Reading: Luke 8:40-56

"Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the crowds pressed in on him.

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her haemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and press in on you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer." When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not fear. Only believe, and she will be saved." When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened."

Luke 8:40-56 NRSV

Reflection:

Where are we? Back on this side of the lake...most likely Capernaum, following a trip across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes where he had healed a man called himself Legion - after the number of demons that possessed him. Jesus returned to a welcome from a crowd. Crowds...large crowd / great crowd / Mary and family unable to get to Jesus 'because of the crowds'. In Luke these crowds begin to arrive in chapter 4. Keep your eye on Jairus.

A 3 part story

Part 1: 12 year old girl....a child.....dying from an unknown cause. We do not get to hear her name. A nameless child dying. But loved by her father, Jairus...a religious leader at the synagogue and well known community member, and so we know his name. Jairus begged - on his knees - for help. I expect the crowd parted for the synagogue leader.

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Part 2: On the way to Jairus' house with the crowd another unnamed female enters the story. Crowds do not part for her....indeed she doesn't want any attention. There is a known cause. For 12 years she has suffered from bleeding, been to countless local physicians, spent all her money, and still she suffered. How that bleeding started, and why it was ongoing we do not know. Menstrual problems. Childbirth, Fibroids, a Cancer? Culturally she could be seen as unclean, and for a religious Jew especially to touch a woman with an issue of blood would make them unclean. But she is desperate and has run out of options - to even touch the healers cloak might help. Jesus 'feels' the touch, stops, asks who touched him, the woman can hide no more and fearfully she also falls before Jesus. By the way...where is Jairus?

Part 3: The journey to Jairus' house...maybe on the outskirts of the town, away from the commercial / fishing bustle...continues. But Jesus is too late, the report comes on the road that child has died, and the family and local neighbours are already gathering to share in the mourning. 'Your child'not 'the child' - Jairus is with Jesus in the crowd. Obviously...he is going back home. Jesus carries onto the house anyway. Her spirit (pneuma - vital life sign) returned...as did her need to eat.. maybe she had been dying for some time, although the end was sudden.

Crowd - public

12 years - no age in a life....but a long time to suffer.

Unnamed females - young and older

Faith and belief but in what...who?

Only Jesus can change this situation - Jairus desperately needs help, and the physicians haven't helped.

Be at peace, do not fear

Reflection with neighbour: What am I reminded of by hearing this story again?

Prayers of intercession

For unnamed girls and women

For belief and faith in Jesus Christ

For ourselves when we are fearful or lacking peace

The Blessing

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.