

## Encountering Jesus

One of the most amazing moments of my life was the birth of Zachary. The second he cried for the first time and I held him was a defining moment in my life. It was amazing to become a father, mine and Em's lives had changed forever.

This would have been the experience of Jairus, his daughter had been born. He was overjoyed, his heart would have melted towards this little girl he held in his arms. This man would have been devoted to his little girl, he would have cared for her, protected her and taught her God's ways. Jairus's only daughter was extremely precious to him.

At the same time, a hard working lady was about to go through something that would also change her life forever. She was afflicted with a uterine haemorrhage which caused her to bleed. She went to the doctors of the time, and was prescribed many different remedies/tonics, none of which had any effect. She spent all her savings to cure what had become a terrible affliction. This same illness is only solved by hysterectomy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so there was no way of this being cured in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. But the illness was not this lady's only problem, because of the issue of blood, this lady also became an outcast. She is viewed by Jewish law -- as ceremonially unclean. Anyone who knew about her illness would shun her. She couldn't go about in society and mingle in the marketplace with the other women, since a touch from her would make someone unclean. She couldn't attend ceremonial occasions, or synagogue worship.

Fast forward 12 years, years of Joy with his daughter, as she grows up have turned to a moment of despair, Jairus's daughter is dying, he has tried everything!

The woman who we have heard about has just about had enough, she has tried everything and her last chance is walking through the town of Capernaum.

Jesus is in town and these two people need him, they have heard that he is a healer, they realise he is their last chance.

Let's pick up the story and read about their encounter with Jesus in:

Mark 5: 21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24 So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,

28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?' "

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

This account is amazing  
It talks of how different people encounter Jesus.

There 4 groups of people that I would like us to look at in this story and see how they respond to an encounter with Jesus.

1. Jairus
2. The woman who was healed
3. The onlooking crowd at Jairus's house
4. Jairus's daughter

**1. Jairus was desperate.** He didn't want to lose his daughter, he even risked not being with her at the moment she died to get Jesus.

He had a need so he went to Jesus.

Jairus gets Jesus attention... Jesus was going with him to his house.

The crowd held Jesus up. He would have been manic.. Come on.....

He then finds out his daughter is dead... he is told not to bother the teacher...

What must have gone through his mind??... these people have got in the way of my daughters healing. He must have been distraught, angry all rolled into one....

Jesus overhears.. and says not to fear, but believe!!

He knew Jesus could heal her, and he just needs to believe that he can raise her from the dead!!.

\*Jairus had Jesus' attention...

\*Friends there are times when we know we have God's attention, but nothing seems to be happening.

\*We have to recognise that God is God and in control, we have to recognise God's sovereignty is a very important thing for us to do. We have to trust God that he will do things according to his will, in his timing, we just have to hold on to him and not let go.

\*Knowing God is in control is massive, it completely affects how we go through life. Temptation and trials will come in life, how we respond to them is what God is looking at!

**2. The woman was also desperate.** She was an outcast. Religious practices of the time excluded her. She was unable to take part in normal life, because of a physical affliction

She elbowed and pushed her way through.

Determined to receive the blessing, expectant that she would be healed. She had faith that Jesus could heal her, she even had faith that just touching his cloak would be enough – If I just touch his clothes. She took what wasn't hers, she took healing from Jesus without permission and without him knowing. She stole a healing!! Only when he felt power of the spirit leave his body did he know what she had done. A great crowd of people jostling to get near Jesus, and he asked who touched me.. Don't be silly loads of people are touching you. Her encounter caused immediate healing, physically and spiritually.

Her faith in Jesus had healed her.

It wasn't Jesus that healed her! She didn't even ask Jesus, she didn't pray for healing, she just believed that touching him would be enough!

\*Religion had excluded this lady, we must make sure we don't exclude people.

\*We want to build a come as you are culture here at abc. If you are a visitor, or have recently joined us I hope that is how you feel.

\*This lady came as she was, she encountered Jesus and was changed forever.

\*Faith not prayer healed her!

\*We know how important prayer is as God has been speaking to us about being a community of prayer, but if we have faith we don't even need to pray, this woman didn't get to ask for the healing she just took it.

\*This is the same as the ultimate encounter with Jesus when we believe in him and what he has done for us. SALVATION doesn't require a prayer. It requires us to believe!

Something we see from both Jairus and the women is this....

\*They both pushed through to Jesus!

\*Friends, when life is tough, when things are desperate...don't give up, don't retreat or run away, but push through to Jesus, fall at his feet.

\*Don't try to do things in our own strength. Jesus could have healed remotely as per centurions servant.

\*But God does things in his ways..

Isaiah 55:6-11

6 Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

7 Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,"  
declares the LORD.

9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it

without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

### 3. The crowd mocked Jesus, they laughed at his claims.

There is a crowd at Jairus's house, it's almost "hire a mourner".. They were there playing flutes and weeping. It was quite a commotion. When Jesus told the people that Jairus's daughter was just asleep they laughed!

This is the way many people view Jesus and his followers.

\*You may even have this view of God, Jesus, and Christians.

The problem is, on the part of people who call themselves Christians, this is probably justified...

\*People's encounters with Jesus are not always positive!!

\*How did Jesus respond? He threw them out. He asked them to leave...

\*There are many people who have rejected Jesus, his teaching and have mocked him. Jesus just gets on with his miracle!

\*We can expect, when we move in God's plans and purposes, that we might get mocked or laughed at. We need to realise that we our identity comes from Jesus and not what other people think or say about us.

\*If we are not getting treated like Jesus was treated, let me ask, are we really doing all he did and asks us to do??

### 4. Jairus's daughter's encounter with Jesus was nothing until the moment he held her hand and tells her to get up.

She knew nothing of Jesus until he healed her.

What an encounter, waking up to have Jesus holding her hand looking down at her. He calls her little girl, this 12 year old loved and cared for by her family, gets a second chance at life.

God loves us, he wants to take us by the hand, and for us to look into his eyes in amazement.

Life is the ultimate thing Jesus gives, this is why Jesus came, this should be the result of every encounter with Jesus.

A dad is given the opportunity to see his beloved daughter grow up, and live a full life!

A sick woman is given the opportunity to be accepted and live a new life!

A crowd is given the opportunity to be amazed and believe in what Jesus can do and see the gift of life!

A little girl is given the opportunity to live.

Jesus came so that we can live life, and to the full.

Only by encountering Jesus can we do this.

I pray that we all have an amazing encounter with Jesus!

Dave Rogers – 10/07/2011