

Jesus the Great Healer, Sovereign over Sickness & Death: A Study in Contrast

(Mark 5:21-43)



Points of Contrast

1. Jairus was named but the hemorrhaging woman remained nameless.
2. Jairus was a well positioned important influential man with no restrictions as to who he could associate with. The woman had nobody, and according to the Jewish religious laws she could virtually touch no one or nothing without polluting them. Her ongoing ceremonial uncleanness isolated her from everyone.
3. Jairus had 12 years of joy with his daughter, but the woman had 12 years of pain and desperation with her ceremonial uncleanness.
4. Jairus would have been wealthy and a homeowner. The woman would have spent everything she had on physicians and was desperately poor.
5. Jairus came to Jesus publicly, but the woman came to Him secretly.
6. Jairus believed Jesus had to touch his daughter, but the woman believed that she needed to touch Jesus.
7. Jesus healed the woman immediately when she touched him, but although he healed Jairus' daughter with a touch it was only after a significant delay.
8. Jairus' daughter was healed in private, but the woman was healed publicly.

Points of Similarity

1. The time of 12 years is significant in both stories.
2. Both had faith. Jairus believed that Jesus could heal his daughter and the woman believed that Jesus could heal her.
3. Both publicly expressed real humility at the feet of Jesus.
4. Both had their request for healing granted.
5. Both stories demonstrate the grace and love of Jesus. He showed no favoritism towards one over the other; nor does he condemn them but addresses them at their point of need.
6. Both stories indicate their hopeless situation without the total healing power of Jesus. Jesus does not only enact a physical healing but also, he addresses their spiritual needs with understanding. The word for healing is used in other places to refer to salvation. The faith that they both demonstrated was redirected to the person of Jesus rather than the touch.