

Girl Restored to Life and Woman Healed – July 27, 2021

This morning we have accounts of two different miracles but both giving life.

In these dark days of terrible discoveries of hundreds of graves at residential schools, does this quote of Barbara Brown Taylor's help? She writes

The miracles of Jesus, remind us that the way things are is not the way they will always be. Jesus is living proof that God's will for us is not chaos but wholeness, and every miracle proclaims that truth. The creation tells us this, and these miracle stories remind us - God's desire for us is not chaos, but wholeness. Every healing, every time the laws of physics are bent, every banishment of evil is a glimpse of how things will be in the future, when we say in faith, that it will be on earth as it is in heaven.

We have two stories here, two stories of healing and restoration. Two stories that go together:

one healing takes place on the way to the other;

one involves a 12 year old girl, on the verge of womanhood, the other a woman who has been suffering for 12 years because of her womanhood;

one girl is the daughter of Jairus, the other one is called 'daughter' by Jesus.

And while they go together, the healings represent two very different realities:

one involves a man who can advocate for what his family needs, he has power and wealth and status;

the other involves a woman who has nothing - she is poor, having spent all she has in search of a cure.

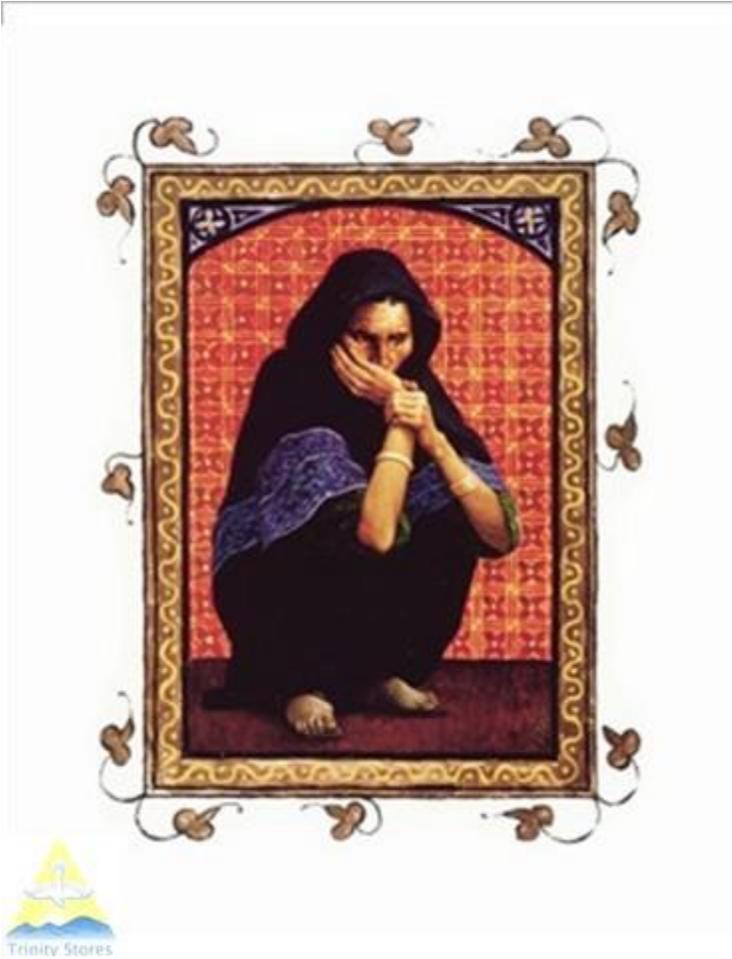
One is part of a family system, with a father seeking healing for his little girl. The other seems to be alone, she has no one to

advocate for her but herself. We know the name of the man, Jairus. Generally, it is only those who have status and prominence who are named in scripture. We never learn of the woman's name, she is part of the crowd - meaning she is one of the many poor who followed and sought Jesus.

And so two stories of healing that go together, but that represent different ends of the socio-economic spectrum - one of means and one with nothing; one with a family system of care, the other on her own. That represent two ends of the power spectrum - one with status and influence, able to be heard before Jesus amidst a great crowd; the other is on the fringe of society because of her illness, leaving her to try for healing in secret.

And of course, the Good News here is that both receive the attention and healing touch of Christ. Both are worthy. Each hears his words of love spoken to them: "Little girl, get up." "Daughter, your faith has made you well." Perhaps the woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for 12 long years, perhaps she did not believe herself worthy of Jesus' full attention and time. She was regarded as unclean and should not have been near this rabbi. Despite that, she believed merely touching Jesus' garment would heal her. So she had to have courage on her own behalf to defy the rules about being 'unclean', to squeeze in to find her place in such a crowd. And she did. Jesus knew immediately.

There is some wonderful art work to help us enter into these miracles and appreciate them: The first (below) is the woman with the hemorrhage...maybe thinking about seeking out Jesus:



The next is just her hand touching Jesus' garment. – below



And the healing of Jairus' daughter.  
Jesus at the door...the mother and father distraught!  
Below





Did you notice Jesus' hand on the girl?

Jesus desire for our healing and wholeness is alive today. We can be assured of that – his desire for our good. Miracles still happen and we can be part of them. We have all found ourselves in situations where we have been blessed and are thankful for God's grace.

We also find ourselves almost daily in situations where we are called to be agents of Christ's spirit of healing and wholeness...working our healing by listening, by encouraging, by caring for others who are in our lives. WE can relieve

suffering for those on our path, even in small ways and these are miracles as well.

We will close with this prayer:

And now as you go from this place, may the God of healing go with you - reminding us that what God desires is wholeness and not chaos -And empowering us to believe that we are worthy of wholeness - we are worthy -That healing and hope might flow through us and into the world. Go in peace. Amen.