



Inner Growth - Jesus 3

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Matthew 1:1

Journey - Luke 9:3

Enlighten - Job 33:30

Saves - Psalms 18:31, 1 Timothy 1:15

Unity - Ephesians 4:13

Sinners - Luke 5:32

The ministry of Jesus continues in Matthew nine, verse nine, where Matthew is called, in verses nine through thirteen. The question about fasting comes after, in verses fourteen through seventeen, where Jesus responds to them. A ruler's daughter raised is the next of two miracles experienced in verses eighteen through twenty-six. The touch of faith and the touch of Christ are intertwined. The healing miracle of the woman happens during the account of the raising of Jairus's daughter.

The words of Jairus, a certain ruler who worshipped Him, came to Jesus, saying, "My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live." The approach of Jairus regarding the situation with his daughter got the attention of the Son of God. First, he worshipped Jesus, which means he either

exalted, praised, glorified, and celebrated the Lord. Second, Jairus states the current condition of his daughter and then follows up with the future result for her through the Messiah. The touch of faith from this certain ruler is unheard of.

Remember, Jairus's daughter was currently dead. Under these circumstances is a time of mourning and preparations for a funeral and other arrangements for the family. The mindset under these conditions is to pay our respects and move on. However, this ruler faithfully came looking for Jesus amidst his situation and worshipped the Son of God before giving his current situation and faithful gesture. The example shows how much faith can do to move Jesus to act on our behalf.

The other miracle was the woman diseased with an issue of blood twelve years ago who came and touched Jesus in verse twenty of Matthew nine. The following in verse twenty-one, "For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole." This woman is a poor, shrinking creature, broken down by a long illness, made more timid by disappointed hopes of a cure, and depressed by poverty to which her many doctors had brought her. She does not venture to stop this new Rabbi-physician, as He goes with the church dignitary of the town to heal his daughter, but lets Him pass before she can make up her mind to go near Him. And then she comes creeping up behind the crowd, puts out her wasted, trembling hand to the hem of His garment, and is made whole.

The woman with an issue of blood was not outspoken but believed within herself in Jesus, prompting her to take action and muster enough strength as she could against the opposition of the crowd around that could have swayed her in not reaching out to touch the Son of God during the traffic of people around Him. The faithful mindset within this woman did

not let anything stop her determination to reach Jesus. She did not let the crowd before her change her heart and let things she heard sway her from reaching out to Jesus. These two miraculous examples show how a person can get the attention of Jesus with our words and our will to change our present situation by faithfully and actively connecting with Him. All things are possible start within our hearts, touching the heart of God to move on our behalf.

Jesus heals the blind and mute in Matthew nine, verses twenty-seven to thirty-four, is the next miracle. As these men were blind, they could have no evidence of Christ's miracles from their senses. They believed them, therefore, on the testimony of others who had seen them. Viewed in this light, their persuasion of Christ's power to cure them was an exercise of faith highly commendable in them, which reflected great honor upon Jesus, as on the one hand, it showed their sincerity and freedom from the prejudices which blinded the minds of the generality of the people of God; and, on the other, the truth and notoriety of His miracles. Therefore, for the glory of God and the edification of others, the strength of their faith becomes the discovery. The miraculous healing was done by their persevering to insist him to have mercy upon them, notwithstanding he seemed at the first to refuse them and by the answer which they returned to his question concerning their faith. Then, as their faith sufficiently manifested, Jesus touched the eyes of the blind men. Such is the mighty power of the prayer of faith and the honor wherewith Christ often crowns it!

The need for laborers in verses thirty-five through thirty-eight is the last section of Matthew nine, where Jesus continues His ministry. "And 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. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd," from verses thirty-five to thirty-six.

Jesus visited the great and wealthy cities and also poor, obscure villages. There He preached, there He healed. The souls of the meanest in the world are as precious to Christ and should be so to us as the souls of those who make the super figure. There were priests, Levites, and scribes all over the land, but they were idol shepherds, as in Zechariah eleven, verse seventeen. Jesus Christ had compassion for the people as sheep scattered, as men perishing for lack of knowledge.

Today, vast multitudes of sheep have no shepherd, and we should have compassion and do all we can to help them. The multitudes desirous of spiritual instruction formed a plenteous harvest, needing many active laborers, but few deserved that character. Christ is the Lord of the harvest. Let us pray that many may be raised and sent forth who will labor in bringing souls to Christ. It is a sign that God is about to bestow some special mercy upon a people when He stirs them up to pray for it. And commissions given to laborers in answer to prayer are most likely to be successful.