

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

God's Love vs. Our Inadequacies

Matthew 9:18-31

¹ Our scripture today is from Matthew, chapter 9, verses 18 through 31. ² It reads, **While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.** ¹ ³

Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.” Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment. ²

4

When Jesus entered the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in

¹ v18-19.

² v20-22.

and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.^{3 5}

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you”; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.⁴

One day Lord Jesus was approached by a group of men in the temple courts who had captured a woman. They threw her at the Lord’s feet and said, **This woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?**⁵ His reply as He looked them in the

³ v23-26.

⁴ v27-31.

⁵ John 8:4-5.

face was, **If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.** ⁶ As the men began to turn away Lord Jesus asked the woman, **Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? No one, sir,”** she said. **“Then neither do I condemn you,”** Jesus declared. **“Go now and leave your life of sin.”** ⁷

Here's the point. Everyone involved in this incident understood one thing; this woman was guilty! She had committed a moral crime. The Law of Moses stated she should be executed for it. What choice would you have made? Divine love for her, not legal demands, ruled the day here. ⁶

Matthew, chapter 7, verse 1, ⁸ says we are not to be the judges. That's God's place! The Lord accepts many of you and I might be tempted to reject! ⁷

For instance . . .

⁶ John 8:7.

⁷ John 8:10-11.

⁸ Matthew 7:1 - Do not judge, or you too will be judged.

I. The Lord Accepts You Even with an Inadequate Motive – v18-19, 23-26

The Lord accepts you even with an inadequate motive.

8

Recall again, verses 18 and 19, While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. . .

Then again in verses 23 through 26, When Jesus entered the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. News of this spread through all that region.

This “ruler” was a man by the name of Jairus. When the gospels of Mark ⁹ and Luke ¹⁰ present this incident, they tell us he was a ruler of the synagogue.

What did a ruler of the synagogue do? He taught the Law of Moses to children in synagogue school. He assigned men to read and expound the scripture during Sabbath services. He took care of the synagogue building and did administrative things.

Since he was probably very orthodox, he likely considered Jesus a heretic. But his precious daughter was deathly sick. He may have tried everything else and came to the Lord out of desperation.

But guess what? The Lord accepted him just as he was, inadequate motive and all! ⁹ The Gospel of Mark mentions the Lord telling him, “Just trust Me!” ¹¹ The Lord met his needs in spite of his motives. ¹⁰

⁹ Mark 5:22.

¹⁰ Luke 8:41.

¹¹ Mark 5:36 - Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

Do you pass judgment on other people's motives? How about the women who joins the church to bring her children up in church? How about the businessman who goes to church because it's good for business? How about the woman who attends church to find a Christian husband? How about the man who goes to church because he finds fellowship and acceptance there? ¹¹

Did you know that . . .

II. The Lord Accepts You Even with an Inadequate Faith – v20-22

The Lord accepts you even with inadequate faith. ¹² Notice verses 20 through 22, *Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."* Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.

This woman was an outcast from society. The Law of Moses required her to remain unclean. ¹³ Leviticus, chapter 15, verse 25 reads, **When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period.** She was required to stay away from people because everyone who touched her would have been ceremonially unclean as well. ¹⁴ Mark, chapter 5, verses 25 and 26 ¹² says that she must have tried everything!

The Lord accepted her just as she was; inadequate faith and all! Her superstitious faith believed there was healing power in one of the Lord's possessions, His clothes.

We do have biblical examples of superstitious faith being honored. ¹⁵ In Acts, chapter 5, verses 15 and 16

¹² Mark 5:25-26 - And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 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.

¹³ people were healed when Peter's shadow fell on them. ¹⁶ In Acts, chapter 19, verses 11 and 12 ¹⁴ handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched the Apostle Paul were used to heal people.

In v22, the Lord said to this woman, "Daughter, cheer up. Your faith has cured you!" If her inadequate superstitious faith could do that, think what your faith could do! But your seed needs to be at least as large as a mustard seed! ¹⁷

Do you pass judgment on other people's faith? How about the man who doesn't understand the "right" reasons for Christian baptism? How about the woman who has an experience she calls the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? How about the guy who accepts Jesus but isn't too keen about the institutional church?

¹³ Acts 5:15-16 - As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.

¹⁴ Acts 19:11-12 - God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

So, we've learned so far that the Lord has accepted people with an inadequate motive and an inadequate faith. ¹⁸ These last verses tell us that . . .

III. The Lord Accepts You Even with an Inadequate Theology – v27-31

The Lord accepts you even with an inadequate theology. ¹⁹ Verses 27 through 31 continue, **As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” “Yes, Lord,” they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith will it be done to you”; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.**

These two men didn't have it all together doctrinally. ²⁰ In verse 27 they called the Lord “Son of David”. This

was not the title our Lord preferred. The people who used it only knew the Lord through reputation.

In Matthew, chapter 20, two blind men, in a separate incident from this one, also addressed the Lord as “Son of David”.¹⁵ In Matthew, chapter 21, this occurred twice; first with the crowd in verse 9¹⁶ and then with children in verse 15.¹⁷

This term implied the Lord would use His power to become a world conqueror.²¹ But He clearly stated that His kingdom would not be of this world, **Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews.**

¹⁵ Matthew 20:30-31 - Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!” The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

¹⁶ Matthew 21:9 - The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

¹⁷ Matthew 21:15 - But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

But now my kingdom is from another place.”¹⁸ ²² But even His disciples misunderstood this.¹⁹

The Lord accepted these blind men just as they were, inadequate conception of who He was and what His purposes were.²³ So, verse 28²⁰ tells us that when they cried out to Him in the street, He ignored them. They had to confront Him privately. But the Lord accepted them and met their need even when their theology was all messed up!²⁴

The Lord will accept you just as you are and meet your needs! How much do you really have to know biblically to surrender your life to the Lordship of Christ? Each of these people realized they had a need they couldn't handle themselves. So must you! Each of these people, realizing their needs, came to the Lord Jesus for help. So must you!²⁵

¹⁸ John 18:36.

¹⁹ Acts 1:6 - So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

²⁰ Matthew 9:23 - When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him.

**The Lord's nail torn hands are reaching out to you.
Come to Him just as you are!**

<http://www.biblelifemessages.org>