

It's not often in life that you get more than you bargained for, more than you could ever have hoped for. I'm not talking about winning the \$90m lotto draw this week. The odds of that are almost zero and it could well end up taking away from your life rather than adding to it. I'm talking about what you get when you put your trust and faith in Jesus Christ.

Two people approached Jesus with their faith one day. One was a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, a respected active church person. The other was an unnamed woman who was seen as unfit to be in church. Both were at the end of their inner and outer resources. The doctors could do no more, money could buy no more treatment for Jairus' daughter, or for the unnamed woman. That is the end of the line isn't it, when the doctor shakes his head and says: “sorry”. So both turned to Jesus, and both received much more than they expected.

Jairus was waiting for Jesus as his boat came to shore. A large crowd gathered that would have made Michael Jackson envious. Everyone wanted a piece of Jesus. Jairus fell at his feet. **"My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."** (v23) Not long ago Jesus had been condemned by church leaders for healing on the Sabbath Day which was against the rules. But when it's one of your own and no one else can help it's different. It's like people who bag Christianity and then know where to go when in trouble, they pray to God. And **"Jesus went with him"** (v24) -comforting words, Jesus goes with us to the hospital, the sick room to see our loved ones. We are not alone.

The crowd followed and pressed in on Jesus. Jesus was like an ambulance stuck in traffic on the way to the hospital when it comes across another accident! In the crowd was the unnamed woman, a no-name nobody. She'd been sick for last twelve years, as many years as Jairus' little daughter was old. She suffered from a chronic hemorrhage, maybe a menstrual problem that left her weak and distressed and unclean in the eyes of the church. She'd been to all the doctors and specialists. She'd tried all the alternative therapies like you do when you're desperate for a cure. Even conventional doctors back then prescribed concoctions made from stags' horns, heads of mice, the eyes of crabs, owl's brains, the livers of frogs, powdered horses' teeth and you name it! If you had a cold he might have prescribed kissing the nose of a mule. The treatment was worse than the disease! For this woman perhaps a dose of the ashes of an ostrich-egg or a barley-corn found in the dung of a white donkey! Alas, (and not surprisingly) nothing worked.

For twelve long years she suffered like this. Church law said that a woman with a hemorrhage was ceremonially unclean. That meant she had to stand with the unbelievers and non-Jews outside the temple. She couldn't worship with the women of her community. They saw a menstruating woman as a drain on a man. (I won't comment on that!) and unclean and unfit for church. For twelve long years she was cut off because of her illness. **"When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering."** (v27-29) She was hemorrhaging to death, but Jesus gave her life, and all she did was dare to touch his cloak.

Jesus immediately stopped and looked around. He sensed power had gone out of him. **"Who touched me?"** (v31) Dumb question, the disciples say, look at the crowd trying to get a piece of him! But Jesus wouldn't move until he confronted the person who touched him in faith. Jesus wasn't a vending machine for miracles. They might've just wanted a healing for themselves but he wanted more for them, he wanted relationship with them. Jesus wanted to single her out, to speak to her, to reach out and give her more than she had already received from him. **"Who touched me?"** Finally **"the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."**(v33-34)

Jesus did not scold her for making him unclean but accepted her uncleanness. He deals with her personally and individually. He calls her "daughter." She belonged. She had a place in the church that others denied her. He praises her faith. Faith that even dares to sneak behind Jesus to borrow a bit of his healing power when he wasn't looking. He blessed her and healed her with his words. Now she could trust him with her whole life and approach him without fear. She wouldn't have to sneak up on Jesus the next time she got sick. She had his word. The word for healing and saving is the same here. She came to Jesus to be healed, and received so much more from him than she came for – relationship with him and

salvation from him.

"While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" (v35)

When someone dies we feel it's too late why bother God anymore. There is nothing he can do either. You can stop believing now. But Jesus was oblivious to the news. He looked in the eyes of the grieving dad and said. **"Don't be afraid; just believe."** "You trusted me when your little girl was sick. Trust me now that she's dead." Keep on believing, don't stop because she's dead. Jesus is wanting to stretch and take this dad's faith further than he ever imagined. He wanted him to dare to believe the impossible. He may have believed Jesus could heal his daughter but what was he supposed to believe now? What are we supposed to believe when God seems to say "no" all the time. When he delays. When he is slow to answer our prayers. When he permits bad things to happen without explanation and when he allows children to die?

Jesus went into Jairus' house. The mourners were already at the house weeping and wailing for the little girl. Jesus asked what all the commotion was about and declared **"the child isn't dead, she's asleep."** (v39) And the people laughed at Jesus. They laughed at Jesus the same way the world still laughs at him and his church today, even though people all hope for something beyond this life.

Jesus kicks everyone out except the parents and a couple of disciples. This is no televised healing service. The Jesus takes her by the hand, again making himself unclean with death, and he speaks softly to her, the way a father gently wakes his little girl from sleep. **"Talitha koum."** **"Little girl, get up."** (v41) And in the power of Jesus' gentle word, she does. She rises from her death bed as if she were getting up from sleep. **"He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this."** (v43) An odd thing to do. But you see there was more to come. Jesus was about to die and rise himself so the worlds' sin that leads to the brokenness of all sickness and death would be dealt with for all and we could enjoy a resurrection too. One day Jesus will stand over the graves of all who have put their faith in him and say "little girl, old man, young woman, I say to you, get up!" and we will, to a whole new life in heaven in a body that will never break down and die again. That's his promise.

What have you come here looking for from God today? - church people, visitors, well known and respected people or no-named nobodies, people who feel they belong here or people who feel unclean and unworthy of being in the presence of God. What are you looking for, hoping for, wanting from Jesus today? Some healing, your own miracle? When you came to see a baptism what did you expect? A pat on the head by pastor, a name being given, but nothing more? Jesus asks you to dare to believe a death and resurrection has taken place this morning. Daisy-Faith died to sin and her old life and new life was called forth by Jesus to get up and live with him now and forever in heaven one day. And when you come to communion what do you expect to happen? A bit of bread and a bit of wine and a few pious thoughts in your head, or taking into yourself the life and death and resurrection of Jesus himself, touching his cloak and receiving his power.

Whatever you came for today believe you have received more than you bargained for. You might have come for one thing and there are no guarantees you will get what you were looking for, but you have been given forgiveness from every sin here today, and with it the assurance of your own resurrection and eternal life! Daisy Faith received it in her baptism and you will have it confirmed in a moment in communion. Forgiveness, peace with God, and with it the ultimate healing of eternal life and salvation. Jesus says to us: "Sons and daughters, you are baptized. You are forgiven. Go in peace. Be healed. Your faith has saved you."

A woman sought healing from a hemorrhage - Jesus gave her relationship and salvation. Jairus wanted Jesus to heal his daughter's sickness, Jesus raised her from the dead. With Jesus we may not always get what we want the moment we ask, in fact for a while it might look like all is lost, but in the end with him we get more than we ever dreamed possible. This morning I wanted some relief from the torn tendon in my shoulder which has been giving me grief since Easter. It hasn't gone away during service, but Easter reminds me Jesus has given me so much more, the gift and promise of eternal life even after I die and a resurrection of my own. Today again I get from him not less, but more than I came for. How about you?