



June 8, 2008

Preaching: Rev. Eunbae Doh

Mark 5: 21-34

“Who Touched Me?”

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, ‘My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.’ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, ‘If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.’ Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched my clothes?’ And his disciples said to him, ‘You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, “Who touched me?”’ He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.’

Does God heal today?

A faith healer asked a little boy how his family was getting along. “They’re all fine,” he said, “Except my uncle. He’s very sick.”

“Your uncle is not sick,” the faith healer said. “He THINKS he’s sick.”

Two weeks later, the faith healer ran into the little boy on the street. “How is your uncle getting along?” he asked.

The boy shrugged, “He THINKS he’s dead.....”

Is God still healing people today by his miraculous power?

I believe so. I’m not a big fan of Benny Hinn or any television evangelist who are doing healing ministry.

But I believe that God is healing people in this world. There are two healing stories in the Bible we read in this morning. Let’s think about how God’s miracle happened in these two healing stories.

This is the first story. Jesus has returned to Capernaum and is immediately met by a crowd of people. Some have gathered to hear His words. Some have come in the hopes of experiencing a miracle. All are there to see Jesus.

A man named Jairus rushes into the crowd surrounding Jesus. This man is “a ruler of the synagogue”. This means that he was one of the officials who oversaw the business of the synagogue. He was not a priest, but he would have had a part in the services of the synagogue. He was responsible for making sure that everything was in order and ready at the synagogue. He would have been an important man in his community. Jairus possessed power, privilege, position, and prominence. He would have been a wealthy man, with a fine home and servants. He was a religious man, who faithfully practiced the Jewish faith.

At this moment in his life, sickness and death had visited the home of Jairus. His “little daughter” was dying. His heart was broken. His power, his money, his position in the community, even his religion, everything he got was all powerless in that situation. Jairus needed help that none of his resources could provide!

This broken hearted father knows he needs help. He has heard about Jesus and he runs to Him and he humbles himself at Jesus feet.

This must have been hard for Jairus! After all, he was a ruler of the synagogue. All of his colleagues in the ministry disapproved of Jesus and of His methods. Most of the synagogues had been closed to Jesus and His ministry. It would be a very difficult decision to go to Jesus. But he did. Why? Why did he make such a hard, embarrass decision? If you have a child or children, you may know the answer. Because he loved his daughter so much.

Love makes a miracle happen!

When we see this man, Jairus, who loved his daughter and went to Jesus without caring about decency, it reminds us how much God loves us, why God became flesh.

Philippians 2:5-7

*Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form*

This is the heart of God. This is the heart of Jarius. This is the heart of father who has a son or daughter. "I can do anything for you if you can be healed. I don't care whatever people say."

As you know next Sunday is the Father's Day. As a father, I am not happy that many people remember and celebrate Mother's Day but don't pay big attention to Father's Day. Fathers, keep you chin up. You deserve to be honored.

I still remember the conversation I had with my son. I was talking about something with my son. We were looking each other in the face. Suddenly, he found something and said in wonder, "Dad, I can see me in your eyes." It touched my heart. Yes, you are always in my eyes, wherever you are. You are always in my heart, whatever you do.

That's right. God is your father. You are the children of God. You are always in God's eyes. You are always in the heart of God. He loves you so much that he died on the cross for you.

Love, God's loving heart, this is the foundation we can ask God's healing power. That's why I believe the miracle of healing can be happen today. His miracle is happening today to the people who understand how much God loves them. We can ask God's healing power because he is our father.

Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks

for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

What a great promise. Our father, God will give us what we ask.

Well... I know many of you may have lot of questions about this kind of message because you did not receive what you asked from God. Bible claims that God can do anything. But there is a big difference between what God can do and what God will do. We all know people who have prayed desperately for something God can do, but God doesn't. Countless Christians have prayed for a loved one to be delivered from cancer, only to have that loved one die. There are so many Christians who are suffering frustration in spite of their earnest prayers.

I believe that all prayers are eventually answered. God answers ALL prayer, but sometimes the answer is "no", sometimes it is "not yet", "maybe in heaven", and other times the answer is "yes".

I have no idea why God answers different prayers in different ways except that He is aware of what is best for us – and sometimes that is to answer a prayer in the negative.

Think of a small child who wants an ice cream just before his dinner. If his parents are wise, they will say "no" because they know that granting this request at that time is inappropriate. God is also a wise parent and many times our prayer requests are not in our best interest of what we may think. So sometimes God says no. It is always okay to pray for whatever we want, but we should think a long time to make sure we really want it. God may answer our every prayer but not in the way that we hope. Sometimes God is not answering our prayers, but he's really just refusing to give us what we think we want so he can later give us what we really need.

I don't believe many of us know the plan of God, particularly when we are asking God for something we think good. He might have a different plan. I don't believe many of us know the mind of God. Prayer is more a matter of opening your mind than opening your mouth.

Let me introduce to you a little poem that was written by the mother of a severely disabled child.

*I asked God to take away my pride. And God said "No".
He said it was not for Him to take away, but for me to give up.*

*I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. And God said "No".
He said her spirit was whole, her body was only temporary.*

*I asked God to give me happiness. And God said "No".
He said He gives me blessings, happiness is up to me.*

*I asked God to spare me pain. And God said "No".
He said suffering draws me apart from worldly cares and brings me closer to Him.*

*I ask God to help me love others, as much as he loves me.
And God said "Ah, finally you have the idea!"*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I believe that God answers our prayers in His time, in His way. We should keep praying because prayer is a long process to understand His will.

Let's take a look the second healing story in the Bible.

Jesus was walking along with the crowd of people. He was heading to Jarius house to heal his daughter. Suddenly Jesus was stopped by a woman. She had pushed through the crowd to get close to him. As the crowd is pressing around Jesus, he suddenly feels that someone touched him with some special motivation.

He said who touched me? And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?" But Jesus didn't care what they said. He looked all round to see who had done it.

It was a woman who has been suffering for 12 years with a hemorrhage. She came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Who touched me? It might be a silly question in that situation. There were so many people surrounding Jesus like a jam-packed bus. Many of the people touched Jesus whether they want or not. But there was only one person whom Jesus recognized. It was the woman who had a bleeding problem. This woman touched not only Jesus garment but also his heart. How could she touch Jesus heart? She touched him with faith. **FAITH!!** Faith made it possible to touch and move Jesus' heart.

Without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. Hebrews 11:6

A miracle happens when our prayer touch God's heart. A miracle happens when we ask God with faith. A miracle happens when God's love and our faith meet together. A miracle happens through people who have loving heart and taking risk like Jairus. God is doing His miraculous work through His people in this world.

We have a great testimony. Last year a family from Burma came to our community. Our church has helped this family. There were so many people who have helped this Karen family in so many ways, giving rides, finding a job, getting a driving license, housing, and financial support. I cannot mention all the detail. They started their Karen worship in our church at chapel. They have been growing day by day. Around one hundred Karen people are gathering here at Baker to worship every Sunday. Today at 1 o'clock they will have a one year anniversary worship to celebrate their new church. No one imagined that this kind of thing would be happened a year ago.

This is a miracle. God is working through His people today. God is still doing His miraculous work through His people who stepped out to help others. God is inviting us today to His miracle. God is calling us to be a partner to heal this broken, wounded world.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, come to Jesus, get over all barriers of doubt and skepticism and ask Him with faith. He will answer you in His time, in His way. God is good all the time. All the time God is good. Amen.