

**What Kind of Man is This? Lord of Life**  
**From the Series, “The King and I – Matthew Tells Us About the King of the Universe”**  
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**Presented to Trinity Church of Teaneck, NJ**  
**On Date - Sunday, October 17, 2021**

**Introduction**

Let’s start today by asking a question: Are women important to God?

Why would I start by asking a question like that? Here’s why: You would be surprised how many people think the answer to that question is “no”. Those people think that the Bible was written by men who had a very low view of women.

Is that true? Let’s find out. As we read, we’ll learn that Jesus is the Lord of Life. Along the way, we’ll learn that yes, women are very important to God.

Today, we’re going to read two stories that center around women. 1) A young girl who died and 2) an adult woman who was sick



**I. A young girl who died.**

We’ll read first about the young girl who died.

18 While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” 19 Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. (Matthew 9:18-19)

So, we see what a would normally be considered sad story. A young girl has died. Who was this young woman? What do we know about her?

**A. Her Father, Jairus (reconsider outline point)**

First, we know about her father. Her father was a “synagogue leader”. This story is also told by the writers Mark and Luke - They both refer to him by his name, “Jairus.”

Why is it important that Jairus was a “synagogue leader”? It’s important because that makes him a prominent member of the religious leadership in Israel. And Jesus was very critical of that group. Back in his Manifesto, the sermon on the mount, Jesus said the following:

“For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:20)

This would seem to indicate that Jesus considered religious leaders such as scribes and Pharisees to be something other than righteous people. This was just one of many things that Jesus said that made him unpopular with this group.

Jairus is one of those people. He should be someone who doesn’t have time for Jesus. Instead, we’re told that he did something very unusual:

“While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him...”  
(Matthew 9:18)

Kneeling before someone is a gesture of deep respect. This man, Jairus, showed deep respect for Jesus. And the way he showed that respect is important: He showed that respect in front of a crowd. The Bible scholars who are listening know of another religious leader who visited Jesus. His name was Nicodemus. We read about him over in John chapter 3:

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night...” (John 3:1-2(a))

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews who wanted to meet Jesus. Do you know how he did it? Nicodemus came to see Jesus **at night**. In other words, he came in secret so no one would know that he came.

Jairus was different. He came when there was a big crowd around. There could very well have been people from his synagogue in that crowd. If any of them reported his actions to other religious leaders, Jairus could be in trouble.

Question: What made him defy the rest of the religious leadership to show deep respect for Jesus? I think there were two things: We’ll learn the first by looking at the request this man gives to Jesus.

“My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.”

This man’s daughter just died. When Luke tells this story, he adds that she was twelve years old, and she was his only daughter. What do we learn from this? This young lady was very important to her father. This was “daddy’s little girl.” Jairus must have loved her dearly, because he risked his reputation to save her.

Now, these actions tell us something more about Jairus: He believed in Jesus. ***He believed that Jesus could save his daughter.***

We're told that Jesus did a number of miraculous things up to this point, so it's not hard to see why this man would think Jesus could perform another miracle. However, this one was different. Prior to this time, Jesus had healed some serious problems: Leprosy, paralysis, demon possession. If this man's daughter had any of those things, you could understand why he came to Jesus. ***Up to this point though, Jesus didn't bring anyone back from the dead.***

Why would Jairus believe Jesus could do this? We need to understand: Jairus was a learned man. As a synagogue leader, he likely knew the Scriptures well. He would know two very important names: Elijah and Elisha. These were two of the greatest prophets of Israel. Each of them also did miraculous things. In fact, each of them did something that none of the other great prophets did: They each raised a person from the dead. We'll come back to that in a few minutes.

For now, let's look at what this means. Many in Israel spoke well of Jesus. They said he was a man of God. Jairus believed something more. He believed that Jesus was one of the greatest prophets to ever be seen in Israel - Someone on the level of Elijah and Elisha.

How did Jesus react to this man's request?

Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. (Matthew 9:19)

When Jesus heard this request, we're told he got right up. Let's recall the context: A few sessions back we learned that Jesus called Matthew. Matthew immediately invited Jesus to his home and threw a big party so all his friends could meet Jesus. Matthew was well off, so this could have been a ritzy party. The food was likely very good - It might have been the best food Jesus had in his life. So, it means something that Jesus put down the utensils and got right up.

I mentioned earlier that some people think the Bible is a book written by men who hold a low view of women. These people tell stories like "the Handmaid's Tale". In that story, the world is ruled by "religious people" who think that a woman's only purpose is to bear children for powerful families.

Sadly, there have clearly been people in history who held women in low esteem. Some of them were among the religious leadership of Israel. At one time, men were taught to pray the following prayer: "Thank you for not making me a gentile, a slave or a woman." Note: "woman" was last after gentile and slave.

Does the Bible teach this kind of attitude? Does the Bible teach a low view of women? Is that what Jesus taught his followers?

Let's talk about what would have happened so far in this story if the Bible was full of men who held a low view of women. First, Jairus, the synagogue leader, would not have bothered to come to Jesus for his daughter. He could stay home and try to have more children. If his wife was too old, he could divorce her and find someone younger. But that's not what he did. This man had two women in his life, and he loved them both. He loved them both so much that he put his reputation on the line to come to Jesus for help. ***Jairus, the synagogue leader, did not have a low view of women.***

How about Jesus? Remember, Jesus is enjoying a fine meal. Imagine, Jesus is working on a beautiful leg of lamb. Jairus comes in with his request. Jesus could have said, "What's the matter with you? Can't you see I'm eating? Look at this beautiful food. Can you smell the dessert cooking? You want me to leave all this for ***a girl?*** Come on, a ***girl?*** Get out of here!"

No, Jesus saw a man who had deep love for his daughter. Jesus knew what Jairus, a synagogue leader, was risking to make a public request like this. So, without a thought, Jesus puts down his utensils and leaves the party. And note: This party was given in his honor.

***From this we can see that Jesus did not have a low view of women.*** He apparently thought this little girl was very important.

Now, at this point, Matthew does something interesting. He includes a side story about another woman who Jesus meets before he arrives at the home of Jairus. It's a nice dramatic effect. Because of time, let's complete the story of the little girl, and we'll come back to that second story.

## **II. An adult woman who was sick**

When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. (Matthew 9:23-24)

We're told there's a noisy crowd at the home of Jairus. In our modern world, when someone dies, everyone is quiet. Not so in ancient Jewish culture. Part of Jewish culture involved proper actions when someone died. People were to be very expressive when they mourned. In fact, they were to make such an act of mourning, that they hired help. They hired people whose job was to wail and cry at the top of their lungs. They hired musicians who were to play funeral music - Loud music. Even the poorest of people were required to have at least one professional mourner and one pipe player.

Jairus was a leader, so he likely had the money to hire more. And they were all working for their money, so Matthew says it was a noisy crowd.

Jesus says two things to this crowd: First, “Go away.” Remember, it’s a noisy crowd, so he likely had to say that very loudly. Second, as an act of grace, he gave a word of explanation. “The girl is not dead, but asleep.”

Remember, this is a group of professionals. They’ve seen lots of dead people. They know dead when they see it. If this little girl was asleep through all the noise they were making, she was a very sound sleeper. No, in their minds, she was dead. It was so obvious to them that they broke out laughing.

Jesus doesn’t waste any time reasoning with them. Let’s read on.

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. (Matthew 9:25)

Understand, Jesus knew she was dead, too. He came from the realms of heaven, from eternity. When Jesus sees someone that we would consider to be dead, he sees their whole existence. He sees their life - He sees their afterlife. To him, the point in life where our hearts stop is just a stage. It’s just one step in our existence. He knew that it was well within his power to pull the process of death back one step. He took her by the hand, and she got up.

As we mentioned, Mark tells the story from his perspective. He adds a detail – a touching detail:

41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). (Mark 5:41-42)

Jesus could have healed this girl from a distance. He could have said the word, and everything would have been fixed. And, he could have finished dessert.

But he wasn’t content to do that. He wanted to be there to speak to the girl with endearing terms. “Little girl, get up.” He wanted to hold her hand, so she wouldn’t wake up in a dark room alone.

Also, I believe he wanted to give Jairus a special reward. Let’s read the story of Elijah raising a young boy from the dead:

(Elijah) ...cried out to the Lord, “Lord my God, let this boy’s life return to him!” (1 Kings 17:21)

And the boy, who had died, came back to life. But for the little girl, Jesus said something different:

“Little girl, ***I say to you***, get up.” (Mark 5:41)

And she did.

When faced with a dead boy, Elijah had to pray to God for help. When faced with a dead little girl, **Jesus gave the command himself**. Jairus believed that a great prophet had arrived, someone on the level of Elijah. In doing what he did, Jesus said, “No, someone much greater than Elijah is here.” Jesus gave Jairus a very special insight - One that others hadn’t seen yet.

What kind of man is this? What kind of man was Jesus? He is the Lord of life. John said it in his book about Jesus.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. (John 1:4)

Jesus could give the command, and the dead were raised. He could do that because he was God visiting the face of the earth. He is the source of all life.

We’ve just learned something vitally important about Jesus. Let’s ask a question: Is the life that Jesus gives limited to only the realms of life and death? Or is there something even more?

We learn that by looking at the second woman.

## II. The Second Woman

20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.” (Matthew 9:21-22)

This woman was sick. Not with a kind of sickness that kept her in bed - She was capable of walking around. We’re told she was bleeding. What did that mean? The Hebrew people were very subtle in their speech. “Bleeding” might have referred to any open wound. However, most commentators believe she had a problem with her uterus. Maybe a tumor, maybe something else. We don’t know for sure.

This created problems on all levels. First, it created physical problems. When you’re bleeding all the time, it makes you tired. This woman was likely in a state of being constantly worn out. Add to this, at that time, there was no running water, so it was very difficult to bath.

On the next level, blood was thought of as the symbol of life force. Your blood was the aspect of life that gave you spiritual energy. Have you ever heard someone say something like, “Things are really rough right now – I feel like the life is being sucked out of me.” Have you ever felt like that? That’s how this lady felt all the time.

Now, even worse, because blood was the symbol of life, bleeding hurt a person’s ability to worship. They were thought to be ceremonially unclean. This means they couldn’t worship in the temple. They weren’t even supposed to touch anyone for fear that the other person would become unclean, too.

Maybe worst of all, a woman was not to have contact a man when she was bleeding. This woman had been bleeding for 12 years. If she contracted this illness before she was married, she could not marry. If she contracted the illness after being married, she could have no contact with her husband.

So, this poor woman's life empty on many levels. It gets worse when you hear Mark tell the story:

26 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. (Mark 5:26)

This lady tried everything. She went to multiple doctors. They were all happy to take her money and give her nothing in return. So, she's drained of life. She's drained of money. Her only hope is a man named Jesus. ***But she's a woman. Is Jesus going to have time for her?***

She says: "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." She figures Jesus is so powerful, if she can just get close enough to touch his clothing, she'll be healed. That's now much faith she had in Jesus. How does that turn out?

22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment. (Matthew 9:22)

It turns out that for one more person, faith mattered. This woman was healed. No more bleeding. No more feeling like life was being drained out of her every minute. She could go home and get back to enjoying life.

Now, let's say Jesus was an uncaring man who didn't value women. Here's what might have happened: He might have said, "Lady, who do you think you are touching me like that? Did you ask my permission? Don't you know that you could have made me unclean, too? I ought to slap you for that!"

No. Jesus is kind to this woman. Jesus knows what she's been going through. He gives her a word of encouragement. And he helps her.

Apparently, even though she was a total stranger, this woman was valuable to Jesus.

### **III. What does this mean for us today?**

Now that we've heard these stories, we can ask, "What does this mean for us today?"

## **A. Are women unimportant to God?**

Back to our opening question: Does the Bible teach that women are unimportant? No! Not at all! We have just seen a man who loved his wife and his daughter so much that he put his reputation at risk to ask Jesus for help. And we saw that Jesus was happy to help. We saw a woman who was sick. She was just as important to Jesus as any man.

Here's what the apostle Paul tells us later:

26 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:26-28)

All people are valuable to God.

## **B. Jesus is the source of all life.**

Next, Jesus is the source of all life.

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. (John 11:25-26)

Jesus is the one who can bring people from death to life. And it's not just life for a little while. We have that on earth. Jesus gives us eternal life. If we believe in Jesus, we will never die. Our bodies may stop moving, but we will live on.

When Jesus said this, he was talking with a woman named Martha. Here's what he said next: "Do you believe this?" That's an important question for us today: ***Do we believe this?***

Jesus does not always raise our friends from the dead so that we can enjoy them in this life. In fact, that's quite rare. But he always gives eternal life to those who believe. So, followers of Jesus can enjoy their friends in heaven forever.

## **C. Jesus offers abundant life now.**

Finally, the life that Jesus gives isn't limited to the realms of life and death. John tells us something that Jesus said:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

Jesus wants you to have a full, rich life. When he healed the woman with the bleeding problem, she could return to her family. If she wasn't married, she could now do so. If she was married, she could go home to her husband and enjoy him, and he could enjoy her. Jesus cares about things like that.

The little girl who died lost her life at the age of 12, just before she could start preparing for her family. Now, she could have one.

These two women could not only have life in terms of existing on the earth, but they could also enjoy all the wonderful things that go with being human.

Here's where we run into an important topic. You might say, "Jesus doesn't always heal. He doesn't always fill our lives with good things. Sometimes things go wrong - Horribly wrong."

That's right. Here what the apostle Paul said about that:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. (Romans 5:1-5)

Friends, Jesus is so powerful, that he can even give us an abundant life through suffering. He can bring life to our darkest moments ***if we will let him.***

Let's pull this together.

## **Conclusion**

Are women important to God?

Today, we met a young girl who died. We met an adult woman who was sick. Jesus gave life to them both. They are just two of the many women that are shown in the Bible to have great value to our Lord.

Jesus told a woman named Martha that he was the resurrection and the life. Then he asked: "Do you believe this?"

Friends, do you believe this? If you've never come to the point in your life where you have believed in the eternal life that Jesus offers, let us tell you how. See the links at the end of this

article. Jesus offers his salvation to all, no matter what your gender or your nationality or your age. Let us tell you how you can have confidence that you have eternal life in Jesus Christ.

For those who have believed, do you believe that Jesus wants you to have abundant life? He does. If you've been missing out on that, again, let us talk with you.

What kind of man is this? He is the Lord of Life.

Let him give you life today.

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**Thanks for reading! Here are some helpful links:**

Trinity Church  
[www.TrinityTeaneck.org](http://www.TrinityTeaneck.org)

Phil's Site  
[PhilBrainerd.com](http://PhilBrainerd.com)

To learn how to begin a new life with Jesus Christ, visit Billy Graham's site:

[PeaceWithGod.net](http://PeaceWithGod.net)