



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC And the Bleeding Stopped!

SPEAKER Elder Chua Seng Lee

THEME Significant Experiences of Grace in Our Lives

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

AND THE BLEEDING STOPPED!

In this sermon, Elder Chua Seng Lee taught about faith through the healing of an unclean woman and Jairus' daughter. Luke 8:40-56 is about Jairus, a synagogue leader, who sought Jesus out in order to save his daughter. While on His way to Jairus' house, a woman who had suffered from bleeding for 12 years touched His cloak and was healed. Jesus healed her spiritually as well after her testimony. After which, He resurrected Jairus' daughter when He was at Jairus' house. These verses displayed the climax for Jesus' power to heal and restore life. They also teach us three lessons on faith. Verses 40 – 44 are about the presence of faith; verses 45 – 48 are about the power of faith and verses 49 – 56 are about the perseverance of faith.

Just like the unclean woman, are we bleeding in any way (e.g. physically, spiritually, emotionally etc)? These lessons can teach and push us to grow and act in faith to which God will respond to.

OUR FAITHFUL AND LOVING GOD RESPONDS TO FAITH

1) PRESENCE OF FAITH (V 40-44)

These five verses show Jairus' and the unclean woman's faith. Jairus, in his faith, humbled himself before Jesus by falling at His feet and imploring Jesus to heal his daughter; he had great faith that Jesus could heal her. The unclean woman displayed faith in Jesus as she believed that even a touch of the fringe of His cloak could heal her. Her action showed that she believed that Jesus is more than a priest, He is God. This faith healed her. Additionally, a comparison of Jairus (someone of importance) and the unclean woman (someone of unimportance) teaches us that God can heal all. We are never too rich or poor for Jesus. God is faithful to respond to *anyone* who has faith in Him.

2) POWER OF FAITH (V 45-48)

In verse 45, Jesus questioned the crowd as to who touched Him when He felt that power had left Him. He posed this question because He wanted the unclean woman to give her testimony. Furthermore, He was not contented in just healing her physically. This can be seen through the fact that He asked her to "go in peace" (v48). Shalom, the Hebrew word for peace, means wholesome

wellness. Jesus healed her not just physically but spiritually as well. She could once again join the community in religious activities.

It must also be noted that it was not her act of faith but her faith that healed her. A person can act without faith but faith will lead to a person expressing it. We can learn about the power of faith when we compare the crowd with the unclean woman. Although the crowd was pressing against Jesus, only the woman received power from just a touch of His cloak. This is because she was convinced about Jesus while the crowd was only curious about Him. This comparison demonstrates that we can miss out on God's power even if we are in His presence. Hence, we must be careful to not let this happen. God is faithful to release us from our bleeding when we not only have faith but it leads to expression.

3) PERSEVERANCE IN FAITH (V 49-56)

Jairus despaired when he heard that his daughter had died despite having much faith at the beginning (v 49). However, Jesus encouraged him to believe again (v 50). Similarly, was there a time when your hope died because of unanswered prayer? God wants to restore your hope just like He did for Jairus. Persevere in faith no matter how hopeless you may feel and do not focus on your loss. Focus on God instead for He responds to faith.

There are two possible reasons when the bleeding does not stop. Firstly, there may be something that is limiting God's blessing or preventing a breakthrough. Every unanswered prayer is however an opportunity to know God more. God will reveal the blockage and restore us as we understand Him more. Secondly, it may be because God has better options for us. Exercise the faith to focus on God and allow Him to top up the faith we need. When we cannot see the hand of God, trust His heart. He is our good Father and the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). God is faithful and He wants to stop our bleeding. When our focus is right and we persevere in our faith despite unanswered prayers, God will stop the bleeding and restore us.

CONCLUSION

Through Luke 8:40-56, we can learn three lessons about faith and God. Firstly, God is faithful to respond when there is the presence of faith. Secondly, God is faithful to release when we have the power of faith. Lastly, God is faithful to restore when we have perseverance in faith.

Are you bleeding in any way? Focus on God and respond in faith. With God, all types of bleeding will stop.

QUESTIONS

1. Recalling and reflecting on the different aspects of your life, share about those you are bleeding in or once bled in. Why do you think you are/were suffering in these areas?

(Leader's notes)

This question is for members to recall and reflect on what areas in their lives they once suffered in or are suffering in such that they have lost hope. God does not always answer our prayers immediately to which there are two possible reasons. Leaders can use this question to get members see how these two reasons apply to their situations and then remind them of the importance of faith. Members who have made a breakthrough can share on how they managed to.

2. Reflecting on the three lessons on faith, what can you learn about God and faith?

(Leader's notes)

The three lessons on faith show that God is faithful and He responds to our faith. Reflecting on these lessons, members can become aware on how much faith they have in God and if as well as how they live their faith out loud. They can then work on growing in their faith in God and ask God to help them to do so.

3. How will this new understanding of faith and God help you to grow in your faith? In what practical ways can you work on and act out your faith in God?

(Leader's notes)

Using the first question and this one, leaders can use this question to know and follow up on the concerns and needs of their members. Both leaders and members can pray for one another. While leaders can follow up with the individual members about their issues and help them to grow in their faith, they should also encourage other members to help out as well. The cell group is an important body in which members unite to support each individual.