

# Matthew 9:18-26

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/matt/matt-9/matthew-918-26/>

*Jesus performs two more miracles. A father comes to Jesus and asks Him to raise his dead daughter back to life. While Jesus travels to the dead daughter's home, another woman who has been hemorrhaging for twelve years reaches out and silently touches Jesus's garment and is healed. Jesus turns to her and affirms her value and faith. When He arrives at the father's house, Jesus dismisses the crowd and raises the young girl back to life.*

The parallel accounts of this event are found in Mark 5:21-43 and Luke 8:40-56.

Jesus's conversation with the disciples of John was interrupted, for *while He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came* with heartbreaking news. Synagogues were the local meeting places where Jews assembled to commune, worship, and study God's law. They were the domain of the Pharisees. Local leaders typically appointed an *official* to take care of the building and preserve the sacred scrolls that belonged to it. The *synagogue official* was usually a responsible layman, respected in the community. Mark and Luke report that this *synagogue official's* name was "Jairus" (Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41).

The *synagogue official came and bowed down before Jesus*, showing Him respect before telling Him the terrible thing that *just* happened. *My daughter has just died*, he tells Jesus. She was still a child and according to Mark and Luke was twelve years old, Jairus's only daughter (Mark 5:42; Luke 8:42).

This man shares this dreadful news with a hope-filled faith. *But come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.* The *synagogue official* had no doubt heard, or perhaps even witnessed, Jesus performing miracles healing lepers, paralytics, fevers, and casting out demons. Now that his *daughter* had *died*, he had nowhere else to turn. Based on what he had heard or seen, he believed that *Jesus* had the power to bring her back to life. *Jesus got up and began to follow* this father to his home. *His disciples* did the same.

Along the way, Matthew tells us that *a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage* follows after Jesus. *She* might have been *suffering from* heavy menstrual bleeding. Apart from the physical suffering she would have endured, she would have also been considered ritually unclean according to the Mosaic Law (Leviticus 19:15-30). She had been suffering under these physical and social conditions *for twelve years*.

As *Jesus* passed by the *woman came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak*. Matthew tells us that *she* did this because *she was saying to herself, "If I only touch His garment, I will get well."* She knew *Jesus* had the power to heal her *hemorrhage*. But she appeared to be ashamed or afraid to publicly ask *Him* to make her *well*. Perhaps because her malady was so personal. So *she* attempted to seek healing covertly by touching *Jesus's garment*.

*She touched the fringe of His cloak* which meant she touched the tassels of the rabbinical shawl wrapped around *Jesus*. Rabbinical tassels (and phylacteries) were worn by religious leaders throughout Judea. Some Pharisees and Sadducees would make a show of them as a way of displaying their righteousness before men. The bigger, longer, flashier the tassels were, the more righteous the scribe who wore it supposedly was (Matthew 23:5). Because of this, many people associated a scribe's tassels with his righteousness. That was likely the reason this *woman* reached to *touch the fringe of Jesus's cloak*. It was where the tassels were.

After *she touched Jesus* in faith, *He* turned around, saw *her*, and said “*Daughter, take courage; Jesus* showed that *He* valued *her* by calling *her*, “*Daughter*.” He told this fearful *daughter* to not be afraid or ashamed but to *take courage*. He then explained, *your faith has made you well*. Christ's power had healed her, but *she* received His healing grace through *her faith* (timid though it was) in *Jesus's* power. Matthew concludes this encounter by explaining that *at once the woman was made well*.

Mark and Luke both add that when *she touched Jesus*, that *He* was surrounded by a crowd of people pressing against *Him* and *He* noticed power go out from *Him* and asked “Who touched me?” *His disciples* were perplexed by what *He* meant by this until *Jesus* explained what had happened, and began talking to this *daughter*. Mark and Luke add that as this event was occurring that the report came from Jairus's house that his twelve-year old daughter died (see Mark 5:24-36; Luke 8:43-50).

*When Jesus came into the official's house*, *He* saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder. This word translated *crowd* is the same as translated “crowds” in 7:28, referring to the disciples who heard the Sermon on the Mount. That infers the group of disciples listening to the Sermon on the Mount could have been a number of people who would fit into *the official's house*.

Lamentations and dirges filled the air. *Flute-players* were sometimes hired to play sad music in houses where someone died. When *Jesus* saw and heard this commotion, *He* tried to disperse *the crowd*, telling them to *Leave*. There was no cause to mourn, for, *Jesus* claims, *the girl has not died, but is asleep*. It is not clear why *Jesus* said that *she* had *not died*, when the girl was reported to be *dead*. Perhaps *He* was speaking prospectively. Perhaps *He* knew something they did not. In any event, it appears *He* did not wish to have a *crowd* around *Him* when *He* raised *her* back to life. Perhaps *He* wanted to downplay what *He* was about to do.

But when *He* said this, *the crowd began laughing at Him*. Their laughter was either a scoffing laugh in offense to what *He* just said, or it showed the hypocrisy of the professional lamenters when they broke character from their “purchased” sorrow at *Jesus's* comment. *But when the crowd had been sent out, Jesus entered the room where the dead body lay, and took the girl by the hand, and the girl got up*. She was pronounced dead. Now she was alive. *Jesus* had raised the girl to resume life.

Not surprisingly, *this news spread throughout all that land* (Galilee and beyond).

## **Biblical Text**

**9:18-26 While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.” Jesus got up and began to follow him, and so did His disciples. And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch His garment, I will get well.” But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.” At once the woman was made well. When Jesus came into the official’s house, and saw the flute-players and the crowd in noisy disorder, He said, “Leave; for the girl has not died, but is asleep.” And they began laughing at Him. But when the crowd had been sent out, He entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. This news spread throughout all that land.**