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Valued and Loved

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Hello, everyone. It is Mother's Day, and I am delighted to see you all here.

As I looked at these scriptures, I moved forward in Matthew and then to Luke. I found something quite consistent by the Lord Himself. I personally believe it is a principle that applies to everyone here in the room. Today, we are looking at where there is love, there is value. We will look at a daughter who is eleven or twelve years old. A father loves his daughter. And where there is love, a daughter will always be valued. I believe that is a scriptural principle found repeatedly in the Bible.

We may not have the same way of practicing life as they did in a farming community in the first century, where the father worked with his children to help them transition into adulthood. However, I truly believe that wherever there was love, that child was cherished. Indeed, this is precisely what we observe.

A Daughter

Matthew 9:28, 18

18While He spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live." 19So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples.

Notably, this ruler, Jairus, is the name we encounter in other gospels. Jairus¹ had heard of Jesus' remarkable miracles and was cognizant of them. He speculated, "Perhaps here, a daughter has succumbed to death." Consequently, Jesus rose and accompanied him, along with the disciples.

This ruler, who was in charge of keeping up the local synagogue, came with the most urgent request. His worship of Jesus was ongoing. You can feel the emotion of his love for a daughter who was dying. He was asking Jesus to lay a hand on her so she could live. Touching the dead made one unclean. What would Jesus do?

Occasionally, Jesus demonstrates his affection for mothers who are not yet mothers, but who will become mothers in the future. Such was the case with this young girl.

¹ Mark 5:22; Luke 8:41. As you read these accounts, in the other gospels, they give you more information.

Single Women and Mothers²

However, on other occasions, older individuals cross his path. In this instance, we witness Jesus' healing of a woman afflicted with a bleeding disorder, which exemplifies the Lord's compassion.

20-22

20And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. 21For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." 22But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.

Suddenly, a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years emerged from behind and touched the hem of his garment. She repeatedly expressed, "She was contemplating, 'If only I could touch his garment, I shall be cured.'"

The term for "cured" in this context is "whole." When one is afflicted with a sickness or disease, the primary desire is to recover, resume one's life, and continue. However, what if one encounters a problem, as Mark and Luke describe, and has consulted every conceivable medical professional without any success? Let me attempt to clarify.

One scholar proposed that, to address this woman's condition, they might have administered concoctions containing various flowers and a chemical combination involving several chemicals, including aluminum. Now the scholar suggested one of the ingredients was rubber, we are perplexed about where they obtained the rubber.³ Nevertheless, it is plausible that some type of tree sap or similar substance was involved. Subsequently, it was mixed with wine and ingested. We are centuries removed from this event. This woman confronted a challenge that could be characterized as a "female problem" or "female issues" in contemporary terms. Occasionally, individuals may dismiss such concerns, stating, "Well, that person has female issues, and we simply do not wish to delve into further details." The focus is it is a private matter and we generally don't go into details. However, what would this remedy accomplish? Would it provide any relief?

In my opinion, the situation described in the Bible does not necessarily imply a direct reproduction problem. While Leviticus 15 mentions two types of blood-

² I am not certain of the marital status of the woman seeking the Lord's healing here. I know of a woman who had a medical issue that could not be healed. It affected her participation in the ceremony of worship. To those who knew her, she was unclean. If she were married, her medical problem would have interfered with her marriage.

³ Contemporary remedies included wine mixed with rubber, alum, and crocuses (D. Bock, Luke [BECNT], 1:793). As quoted in the Net Bible Luke 8:43 note.

related issues, one of which could be associated with sexual discharge, the other with medical problems, it is important to note that the context of the passage does not explicitly state that the woman had a sexual issue. The gospel accounts do indicate that she had a medical problem⁴ that the doctors could not help. Even today, doctors and medical science have their limitations.

Furthermore, the fact that she had a problem for twelve years and was separated from her worship suggests that there may have been other underlying health concerns. The mention of her blood flow and the fact that she was separated from her community further support this interpretation.

It is also worth noting that the word “hemorrhage”⁵ is used only in Matthew’s Gospel, while the other Gospels use the word “blood.” This difference in terminology may indicate that Matthew’s Gospel is the only one to specifically address blood flow in this context.

To summarize, the woman’s problem appears to be related to a physical condition rather than a reproductive issue. Her separation from her worship and community suggests that she may have been dealing with a health problem that was not openly discussed. The fact that she was not ashamed of her condition and sought healing from Jesus further emphasizes the importance of compassion and understanding in addressing such situations. Jesus being in touch with a blood issue would have made him unclean in the eyes of the religious leaders.

The story of the little girl is also relevant to this discussion. Jesus’s touch of a dead body, which should have made him unclean, is not affected by the uncleanness of the deceased. Similarly, Jesus’s purity is not compromised by the woman’s uncleanness, and he is able to cleanse and heal her. This demonstrates the power of Jesus’s compassion and the importance of treating others with kindness and understanding, regardless of their circumstances.

All our sins were placed upon the Lord Jesus, and he died for them. We cry out spiritually, touching Jesus, and that does not make him unclean. Instead, it makes Him turn around and offer forgiveness through the shedding of his blood, which cleanses us. He cleanses us, forgives us. We may have felt ashamed about our sin, living in a way we should not have. But he comes along and forgives us.

I think of the song “Ship Ahoy,” where the dear captain saves us from the water, just like Jesus saved us from the sea of sin and pulls us into the good ship Zion, where we are saved. It is the same principle He is showing in his

⁴ Luke 42c-48;

⁵ αἱμορροοῦσα From Word Origin: [from G129 (αἷμα - blood) and G4482 (ῥέω - flow)] to flow blood, i.e. Have a hoemorrhage -- diseased with an issue of blood.

healings. Leprosy was seen as sin, and death was the natural result. Illness made people unclean.

I am a father and have worked in hospitals. I can only tell you that discharges are no good. When people have discharges, it smells bad, and I am gagging. It is hard for me. But I have helped people with different problems. But the Lord heals.

I recall the time when I helped an individual who, because of his psychological problems, was very angry and abusive in language. Nobody wanted to help this guy when he got sick. They were all willing to let this guy remain sick and not help him clean up. Now they had a good reason; he was very abusive. But I was thinking about loving our enemies. Loving those whom most people find it very difficult to show compassion. I was led by the Lord to reach out and help this fella. There was nobody in the hospital who wanted to help him. He had become sick, and his whole room was covered with discharge. I hope you get the picture here.

So I went into the room, and I told the guy I was his last hope of getting cleaned up. He was very sick, but he had burned all his bridges. Now, the people in the hospital were tough people. They had helped many people. But this fellow went over the line. In his sickness, he was actually helpless. So he gave me permission to help him out. It took a couple of hours to get the room cleaned, and him cleaned up. My gag reflex was still working from time to time.

He had an ongoing mental disorder that required hospitalization several times after that. He remained abusive to everybody else, but to me, he called me Mr. Reeves and never swore at me. I was actually able to do therapy with him, and he remained friendly over the few years that I worked there. The whole thing was quite a testimony to everybody else. No, I want to say that his behavior was indeed very inappropriate. So don't judge those hospital workers too quickly. This guy was a pain of the biggest order. Yet with me, I was Mr. Reeves, and he was actually quite different.

So what does he do? In the other gospel accounts, he wants to find this woman and let her know he healed her. But this is what he does.

Verse 22. But Jesus turned around, and when he saw her, he said, "Be of good cheer, daughter. Your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well that very hour.

Forgiveness, fear, endurance, hope—they are all part of it. Now, let us dive into verses 23-26.

23When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, 24He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. 25But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the

hand, and the girl arose. 26And the report of this went out into all that land.

The big question is: what do you know about the Lord Jesus? If we were in a room, a funeral home, or even a hospital with a family mourning a loss, we could not bring someone back to life. But what makes this situation different? If I were one of the disciples, I would not know what to expect. I know from the scriptures, but as I am experiencing this with them in their time, I would be wondering, what is going to happen? So here is the scene: when Jesus arrived at the ruler's house, He saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing.

He told them, "Make room for the girl." For the girl, make room for the girl who is not dead, but sleeping.

The central theme of this passage concerns the identity of Jesus and the extent of our knowledge of Him at that time. It is important to recognize that we cannot simply bring someone back to life without divine intervention. If someone is deceased, they are beyond our reach. However, Jesus asserts, "The girl is sleeping." This statement raises questions about our understanding of the situation. Some individuals in the room lacked knowledge of Jesus and laughed. This scenario would be analogous to someone entering a room where someone was deceased and proclaiming, "I will pray, and that person will be resurrected." Such a statement would undoubtedly elicit laughter, and rightly so, as the speaker lacks the authority to perform such a miracle.

In contrast, when the crowd was dismissed, Jesus did not wish for the grieving family to be constantly subjected to mockery directed at the Lord.⁶

He entered the room and performed the miraculous touch once again. He took the girl's hand, and she miraculously arose from the dead. Despite the fact that he had touched her, she was already deceased. In the Jewish cultural context, such an act would have rendered Him unclean. Nevertheless, Jesus touched her and bestowed life upon her.

When we die, the brain ceases to function and is inevitably destroyed. To illustrate this point, consider the hypothetical scenario where I were to pass away in this very room and, miraculously, be resurrected after a half-hour period. In such a case, my brain would have been irreversibly damaged and rendered brain-dead. The miracle would have to include healing from the decay process. Therefore, this miracle stands as a truly remarkable event.

The news of this extraordinary occurrence spread rapidly and widely. As I mentioned earlier, where there is love, there is inherent value. Jesus possessed a profound love for this young girl, who would eventually become a mother.

⁶ How do we think of Jesus with ridicule and scorn, or do we hold him with respect, looking at what he may do? This is part of a classic battle between belief and unbelief, as seen in Psalms 2:1-12. Today, we apply the hope that we have in the resurrection. That there is life after death. That hope fulfills our desire to be reunited with those who were separated by death.

A Woman's Ministry has Worth

Let us now turn to Luke chapter 8.

1Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, 2and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

Luke chapter 8 presents a vivid account of Jesus's actions. He demonstrated his love and worth by first appearing to women. As the narrative unfolded, these women approached the men, only to be met with disbelief.

I will refrain from elaborating on this aspect at this time. However, it is evident that Jesus held a deep affection for these individuals and recognized their value. Subsequently, he embarked on a journey, traveling to every city and village to spread the joyful message of the kingdom of God. He continues to share this kingdom with the people. The twelve disciples accompanied him, and certain women who had been healed were also present. There were two distinct types of challenges faced by the women, which were not identical. One involved malevolent spirits, while the other encompassed physical ailments. Notably, Mary Magdalene experienced the expulsion of seven demons from her body, although the specific nature of her behavior remains uncertain. It is evident that she is not the same *sinful woman* mentioned in chapter Luke 7:36; she is a different person.

Additionally, Joanna, the wife of Chusa, was among the disciples. She was associated with Herod Stewart, Susanna, and others who provided financial support to him. These women, despite their diverse backgrounds and challenges, were included among the disciples. Some of them were involved with demons, and it is well-documented that there were numerous demons present during Jesus's earthly ministry. He was in Israel, where Satan was actively attacking Him, which contributed to the prevalence of demons.

It is important to note that seeking out demons in the present day is not advisable. Satan is both skilled and intelligent and way beyond our depictions of him. And he who was in us is more powerful than he who is in the world. Satan is limited where he cannot read our minds. He is very skilled at reading our body language. But he is also created and not God and therefore he has his

limitations. There is a wonderful promise in 1 John 4:4.⁷ I will refrain from delving into specific personal anecdotes.

Let me share some information about Joanna. She hailed from a background within Herod's court. Somehow, she became entangled in the political affairs of the time, and she eventually learned about Jesus. She is mentioned twice in The Gospel of Luke.⁸ According to the wonderful production of "The Chosen," directed by Dallas Jenkins, Joanna's journey began with John the Baptist and culminated in her association with Jesus. While the exact details of her path are not entirely clear, it is evident that she is a follower of Christ. God's ability to save individuals regardless of their wealth is evident in Joanna's story.⁹ She received divine assistance and now actively participates in the ministry initiated by Jesus. We need to be reminded that God saves the poor and the rich alike. It is true that it is difficult to see people who are rich trusting in the Lord rather than their own self-sufficiency, but it is possible for the rich man to be saved. Remember with God, nothing is impossible. Which is also true concerning the poor man. Regardless of how affected by poverty, the poor man can also be saved. Remember with God, nothing is impossible.

These women possess resources and consistently contribute to the ministry. No church has ever achieved true effectiveness without women's unwavering support and dedication. Their value and significance are immeasurable, as they consistently give and provide. This is a testament to the fact that love and value are intertwined.

Responsibility to Hear & Do

19Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. 20And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You."

21But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Verses nineteen to twenty-one emphasize the importance of holding women accountable for their actions and of following the Lord. Furthermore, Jesus's

⁷ "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1. You belong to God. Jesus and the Holy Spirit who now indwells us is greater than Satan. God the creator is more powerful than creation and those He created.

⁸ Luke 8:3, 24:10

⁹ The chosen take on Joanna is interesting and reminds us that people mentioned in the gospels all have interesting stories. Hers, like so many others, we simply can only guess what they were like and went through. One day we will meet her and others and learn how God worked in their lives.

mother and brothers approached him, but they were unable to reach him because of the large crowd. An individual inquired, “Who are your mother and brothers standing outside?” They were eager to see him. In response, Jesus used this situation as an opportunity to teach. However, he responded, “My mother and my brother are those who hear the word of God and act upon it. You see, the mother and brothers arrived. The Gospels recount their arrival in the other Gospels. They came because they were concerned that Jesus might be deviating from the right path.¹⁰ They believed that He should truly present himself and assume the role of ruler of Israel, not in these unimportant areas of Galilee, but actually go to the capital of Israel in Jerusalem and assume his role as Messiah. In actuality, his brothers and sisters did not believe in him at this time. But Jesus informed his mother and the other disciples, “No, when I journey to Jerusalem, I must go and I will die, and on the third day, I will rise again.”¹¹ I will not go to Jerusalem as the ruling Messiah because I came to my own, and my own did not receive me. They had already rejected¹² Jesus when He went to Jerusalem.

Therefore, Jesus had a different purpose, one that involves the salvation of the entire world, not just Jews, but Gentiles, who can trust in Christ. The mother and brothers did not comprehend this, nor did the disciples. In fact, no one else did. There were a few who did, however. Recall the lady who, once again, was a lady who loved the Lord, anointed the Lord because she knew he was going to die. She anointed him for death. She understood it. And Jesus said, wherever the gospel is preached. That lady will be remembered for her actions.

What I am saying here is truly wonderful for all of us, especially for women. We are aware of the nature of the human heart, where sin reigns. We know that it is the strongest who prevail, and so on. There is abuse of power. Women have been mistreated. Sin has wreaked havoc in the lives of women and families. However, wherever there is love, there is value. And we observe this every time with the Lord Jesus. He loved, he loved, he loved, he valued, he valued, he valued. He desired to be around these people and to help them. How many fathers who love their children do not want to see their children grow? Become strong, become intelligent. How many fathers have taught their daughters how to read? And I am referring to history. When cultures did not do so, how many

¹⁰ Matt. 12:46-50; 13:55, 56; Mark 3:21, 31-35; 6:3; John 2:1-12; 7:5; Acts 1:6. Jesus had half brothers and sisters not cousins. ὁ υἱὸς τῆς Μαρίας καὶ ἀδελφὸς Ἰακώβου καὶ Ἰωσήτου καὶ Ἰούδα καὶ Σίμωνος; καὶ οὐκ εἰσὶν αἱ ἀδελφαὶ αὐτοῦ ὧδε πρὸς ἡμᾶς; He was the son of Mary. The Greek word for brother and sisters. Four brothers named. Like the disciples they were confused about the rejection of His Messiahship and His lack of using His power to bring the kingdom rule at that time.

¹¹ 1 Cor. 15:3-5; Matthew 17:22;

¹² John 1:11, 12

fathers loved their daughters enough to teach them to read? It did happen. Why? Because they were valued. In a home.

What is it that the Christian husband learns to do? It takes time. One of the lessons we learn is to value. The one we married. Learn to love. I have learned over the past fifty years. I have improved in this regard. Although I cannot hear anything now, I still love. And that is the takeaway on Mother's Day. Today is to witness these miracles touching sin, touching death, touching disease. Jesus had compassion and love. Mother, grandmother, mothers-to-be, mothers, God loves you. And He values you. He is working to teach people to value you, and that is what the Word of God says. And I hope that you are encouraged today. That is so fundamental with God.

Like that person who went off in Muskegon and did the foolish, evil things. People controlled by sin do foolish sinful things. And sometimes they do not treat people right. Yes. Some of us have had to learn. We have to learn to value others. We have to learn to love others.

It is important to remember that God the Father is unique, even compared to our own parents. He truly loves and forgives. Let that resonate with you.

Lord, we thank you for your word. I am so grateful that you love each of us, but today, we are focusing on how you love women, girls, mothers, and grandmothers. Even Mary, Jesus's mother, had to navigate the path Jesus was destined to walk. She did not know it at first and faced challenges just like everyone else. But she was loved by her son and valued. So, let us carry that principle with us today, Lord, and thank you so much for your love. In Jesus's name, Amen.