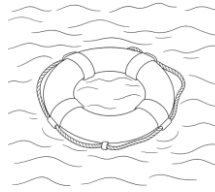


Jesus Saves: Do we have faith in him?



When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered round him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, 'My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.' So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed round him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 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. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realised that power had gone out from him. He turned round in the crowd and asked, 'Who touched my clothes?'

'You see the people crowding against you,' his disciples answered, 'and yet you can ask, "Who touched me?"'

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth.

He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.'

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. 'Your daughter is dead,' they said. 'Why bother the teacher anymore?'

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, 'Don't be afraid; just believe.'

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and wailing?

The child is not dead but asleep.' But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha koum!' (which means 'Little girl, I say to you, get up!'). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Have you ever needed to be rescued or saved?

Maybe you were lost, or you were really sick, or you might have been drowning, or maybe you just had a hard maths question you needed help with.

In this part of the true story of Jesus, we see two very different people who both need saving. Jairus needs some one to save his sick and dying daughter and the lady needed someone to save her from her sickness.

The good news is that Jesus saved both of them, even after Jairus' daughter had died!

You see, because Jesus is from God, in fact, Jesus is God, he has the power to save, even dead people, and because Jesus cares about people, he does save people. This is good news then and now because Jesus is still alive and the same today. That means he is still caring and powerful and able to save people today!

While Jesus can and does still save people from disease and sickness now, so we can ask him to help us in times of trouble, he does not promise he always will. But Jesus does promise to save everyone who asks him from their biggest problem, that is sin, that is thinking, speaking and acting against God and his way.

Jesus promises that anyone who has faith in him will be forgiven for all their sin – past, present and future – and will be welcomed into God's forever family.

So, do you have faith in Jesus?

Some questions to think about:

1. Why did Jairus need some to save his daughter?
2. Why did the woman need someone to save her?
3. Why could Jesus save them?
4. What does Jesus promise to save everyone from? How do you feel about this?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that Jesus is God. Thank you that Jesus cares. Thank you that Jesus saves. Please help me to have faith in Jesus.

Amen.