**Message Notes 3-20-2022 – You Raise Me Up**

A couple of weeks ago I had a dream of my Grandmother Alice. Alice went home to be with Jesus about half a year ago. In fact, today is her birthday.

But in the dream, I saw her walking through what looked like a hallway in a church. She was wearing a hat and then removed it and placed it on a shelf before entering what I believe was a sanctuary.

But most vivid to me in the dream was the smile that she had. It was like from ear to ear – a picture of joy.

I believe it was likely a brief glimpse of the joyful worship in heaven.

My Grandmother’s life was not an easy one. She endured many challenges and experienced much pain and suffering through her journey. But she held firm on her faith in Jesus. And in the end, all is well with Alice.

In fact, by God’s grace my mom was there to witness her passing. She had been unresponsive for hours until moments before her passing. But in those moments, she suddenly looked up with her eyes wide upon. **It was as if Christ was standing in the room with her to take her by the hand to escort her to heaven.**

Today, as we turn again to God’s Word, we will consider two more examples of Jesus using His hands in the process of restoring people to health.

The first of these stories involves Jesus and Simon Peter’s Mother-in-law.

This is found in Luke 4:38-39

**38Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. 39So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.**

Certainly, this was a serious and life-threatening situation, as high fevers can be very dangerous. But from this short passage and its parallel account in Mark’s Gospel, we find two important truths.

First, we see the power of Jesus. He rebukes this high fever and it leaves her.

Second, we see the love and compassion of Jesus. Jesus bends over this woman and, as Mark adds, he takes her by the hand and helps her up.

While this woman would always remember her physical healing, more importantly she would always remember the hand of Jesus grasping her own hand and gently raising her up to a seated position.

Friends, at that time, an older woman like Simon Peter’s Mother-in-law, would have been of very low value in the Jewish culture. But she, like every other person, is of immense value to Jesus. Jesus meets her at her level and then takes her by the hand and helps her up.

And the next thing you now, it appears that she is running around getting something for Jesus and the others to eat.

The other similar story we are highlighting today is found in Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

**21When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23He 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.” 24So Jesus went with him.**

**35While 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?”**

**36Overhearing[**[**a**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+5%3A35-43&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24401a)**] what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”**

**37He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” 40But 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. 41He took her by the hand and said to her, *“Talitha koum!”* (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.**

In this scene we find this man Jairus. We are told that Jairus was a synagogue leader. Certainly, as a synagogue leader, Jairus would have been admired and respected by many.

But as he sees his daughter become extremely sick, he is willing to risk his reputation to publicly place his faith in Jesus as the One who has the power to restore the health of his daughter. He finds Jesus and he falls at His feet. And he asks for Jesus’ help for his daughter. It was a position of submission and surrender.

When we read the story in the gospels you find that while Jesus is making His way towards this 12-year-old girl, He heals a woman of a bleeding condition who has suffered for 12 years. Basically, as long as his daughter has existed, this woman has been suffering with a bleeding condition. And Jesus heals her on His way to Jairus’ house.

And like in the previous healing of Simon’s Mother-in-law, again we see these twin themes coming through.

First, we again see Jesus’ power to heal. And this time it was not only a fever, but physical death.

And second, we again see Jesus’ compassion. He clears away the unbelieving crowds and then He gently takes her by the hand as He raises her back to life.

Like Simon Peter’s Mother-in-law and like the woman Jesus healed of her bleeding condition, this young girl would have been considered rather low in value in that culture.

But each of these people are precious to Jesus. And again, we see Jesus taking her by the hand and lifting her up.

Friends, as we ponder these amazing stories where we see the hands of Jesus displaying power and compassion, what are we to make of them for our lives today?

**First, these stories remind us of Jesus’ power and authority and should cause us to look to Him for help**. They teach us that first and foremost we are to look to Him when we or others we know are unwell. While there is nothing wrong with medicine and doctors and Jesus can do work through them, we are to always remember that Jesus is the great physician. And this is not just physical healing, but also emotional healing and mental healing and spiritual healing.

We are to look to Him, as Jairus did, for help in our times of need. He is our ever-present help in times of trouble. We are to come before Him in prayer. Prayer for ourselves and for others. Jesus is almighty and He cares about bodies and minds. So always pray, look to Christ, and remember His power and authority.

**Second, we are to remember the compassion of Jesus** **and seek to live lives of compassion as well.**

Jesus’ compassion to Jarius and to his daughter and to the woman that He healed on the way to Jarius’ house – all these things testify to Jesus as a compassionate King and Savior that we have.

The way that he gently lifted them up by the hand tells us that He met people on their level and demonstrated their immense value to God.

We are to use our hands to do likewise. We are to meet people on their level. We are to gently lift them up when they are down. We are to embody compassion in this broken world. There is so much hurt and brokenness. We can be instruments of peace and healing. Our words and our deeds can be a compassionate balm to those that we know and even those we do not know.

**And third and finally, this story should remind us that we need not fear physical death**.

In the letter to the Hebrews chapter 2 and verses 14-15, we read , *“Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might break the power of Him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death”*

In other words, all of humanity is enslaved by the fear of physical death. But in Jesus, we are set free from that. Can we have an amen?

We need not fear. Christ is with us.

Eventually, it is safe to assume that Simon Peter’s mother-in-law got sick again and passed away, as did the woman with the issue of blood and even the 12-year-old girl at some point – hopefully time in which she would testify to what Jesus did for her.

But eventually their physical bodies would have given out. That is the nature of things in this age. But I believe that Jesus was there to escort them to heaven, as I believe He was there for Alice 6 months ago as well.

Truly, the best is yet to be for the people of God. So do not be afraid, sisters and brothers. Christ has won and we are in Him.

So again, remember the power of Jesus and seek to be vessels in which His power flows through in this life. He is our healer in every sense of the word.

Remember Jesus’ compassion. Rest in His compassion and grace towards you. And seek to be instruments of compassion in His Name in this world. Let us use our hands in those ways.

And finally, let us walk in freedom from the fear of physical death. Jesus has authority and we are in His hands.

Let us pray…

**Resources**: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

Mark: The NIV Application Commentary by David E. Garland

The Gospel of Luke: The New International Commentary of the New Testament by Joel B. Green

Lecture by Dr. H. Douglas Buckwalter in Spiritual Warfare Course: Evangelical Seminary – Spring 2021