

A Message from Godfrey

The healing of the woman with the haemorrhage on the way to the resurrection of Jairus' daughter are two miracles linked together in order to tell an important truth. That truth is that sickness and natural death are both subject to the power of God and neither spell the end for those in Christ.

The lives of the two women healed by Jesus are two aspects of the basic situation we find ourselves in as humans. For the past twelve years, Jairus' daughter flowered in youth before dying suddenly and for those same twelve years, the woman suffered constantly. Both are familiar tragedies in human life and who can say which is worse, the ongoing experience of pain in life or the swift onset of terminal illness snuffing out a life in the prime of its beauty?

Through faith, both are healed. Jesus' pronouncement that the girl is only asleep is meant to show that, in the eyes of God, natural death is only a species of sickness (while the detail that those around laughed at him, confirms that the girl was truly dead, and Jesus was not speaking medically; see also John 11:4). Haemorrhage and bodily death occupy the same spectrum, and neither are final for God—unlike the second death of eternal separation from God.

Martyn Percy, Dean of Christchurch, Oxford once wrote;

“Mark gives prominence to the narrative by the sharing of the number twelve. The girl is twelve and the woman has been ill for twelve years. This coincidence suggests not there is a narrative relation of some kind between the woman and the girl. An older woman is cured of a menstrual disorder of twelve years' standing and is sent back into society. The girl who has not yet reached puberty is about to reborn and take her place in society. Jesus by absorbing and absolving that taint through the simple power of healing touch, enables this.

Thoughts and prayers

Godfrey