

Matthew 9:18-31

'My daughter has just died but come and lay your hand on her and she will live.'

1. We need people

Everyone of us needs to have the hand of God on their lives. We need to get the hand of God in our world. **God does that by putting us into churches with people.** He uses other people to place their hands on our world.

Forsake not yourselves the gathering together as is the manner of some...
Hebrews 10:25

We need people to be in our world. Placing their gifts, their lives in our lives. It is through this that we can grow as people. **Without others we tend to withdraw** and only think that we have to solve every issue that comes our way. But God has placed us in local church so that we can get other people in our world. So that we can have life.

People lay their hands on our lives in many ways. Here are just a couple.

1. They help us with a physical matter that needs fixing. I.e. gardening, paving, playing sport, building a wall, room, painting, repairing.
2. Spend time with us – BBQ, social events, parties, watching movies, football, DVD
3. Give us advice when we ask for it, and sometimes when we don't
4. They tell us about the good things that are happening in their world.
5. When they give us a card, gift.
6. When they send us a Text message, facebook wall to wall, phone call
7. They do things for us when we don't ask.
8. they visit us when we are sick
9. They tell us things about our world

We all need people in our world. Life comes from connection to people.

2. People help us deal with issues.

Verse 20 And suddenly a woman with a flow/issue of blood for 12 years came from behind and touched the hem of his garment.

This woman had a problem, a issue. This issue of blood or hemorrhaging of blood had been in her life for a long time. 12 years to be precise. That's a long time to carry around this problem. She has carried this issue of blood for twelve years.

All she wants to do is to get to Jesus. **To just touch that which touches him.** She doesn't even need to touch Jesus. She only needs to touch, get in contact with, that which touches or is in contact with him.

Sometimes we can't always get to the person we want to get to. We know that a particular person has or possibly has an answer for our world. Then the next best thing is to get in contact with someone who has contact or has had contact with them.

This is one of the reasons we have connect groups so that more people can get in contact with people. We have set these up for life. To bring life to people's world's. Connect groups are about having people in our world. **When we go to connect groups we create opportunities for success.**

So this woman has an issue. She has a problem. It's been with her for a long time and its been hemorrhaging from her life for a long time. **Often we have issues in our world which have been hemorrhaging for a long time.** It may not be blood related but it still is causing us to bleed regularly. Are you bleeding from somewhere in your world?

Too often we think we are meant to carry around with us this issue. We think we are meant to always have problems in this area. But God says no.

You might be always bleeding financially.

You might be always bleeding socially.

You might never have been able to hold onto someone in a relationship for very long.

You might have always blown your relationships through anger or withdrawal.

You might have never been able to hold down a job for very long. Always leaving after a period of time.

God is in the business of putting you in connection with people who can fix the bleeding. That's why we are put into churches.

God fixes stuff like that. He makes your life better. When we reach out in faith to God for something he moves. He changes. He alters. He fixes. He sets in motion events that will help us become the person we are meant to be. And he will do it again and again because and through his grace for our lives.

Nothing is impossible to God. All things are possible.

Get in connection Jesus. We do that by being in connection with the local church. Some people think we don't have to come to church. The deal is the local church. **God is not investing in any other building program right now. He is putting all his effort into building the church.** The local church.

Our connection with the local church gives us the place for us to grow, be disciplined and gain the life of Christ through connection.

3. People help our dreams to live

Verse 25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand and the girl arose.

This little girl was the dream of her father. He had visions of her growing up and achieving something.

God wants to breathe life into dreams and visions. **He wants the connection with the local church to be so strong that whatever was dead in your world becomes alive.** Whatever was pronounced as dead, now is alive.

Some people are not good for our world.

Jesus comes into our world and says ok that thing there is dead. You say its dead, the people around say you can no longer do that, the people near you say its not possible, they mock you, they mock your belief but God says I have come to give life and life abundantly.

Whenever the presence of God invades your world life comes.

Freedom comes, fulfillment comes, hope comes, love comes, security comes, assurance comes, peace comes.

People will always try and pull us back and hold us to what has happened in the past. What they think is best for our lives. We just need to maintain the connection with the local church. Don't be tempted to fall away because of family, friends, work or even sickness. **Get yourself to the presence of God. That's what brings to your life the freedom you need.**

Today God has a plan. That plan is the local church. He loves what he is building. Let me finish by giving you a couple of hints for loving your church.

1. Come
2. Bring
 - a. Your tithe
 - b. Your friends
3. Serve
 - a. We believe that Church is not a hotel it's a church.
 - b. We are building something not just having a service.