

# livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

Luke 8:40-48

## **Cure of the woman who was bleeding, Jairus' daughter raised to life**

On his return Jesus was welcomed by the crowd, for they were all there waiting for him. And suddenly there came a man named Jairus, who was president of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and pleaded with him to come to his house, because he had an only daughter about twelve years old, who was dying. And the crowds were almost stifling Jesus as he went.

Now there was a woman suffering from a haemorrhage for the past twelve years, who no one had been able to cure. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak; and the haemorrhage stopped at that very moment.

Jesus said, 'Who was it that touched me?' When they all denied it, Peter said, 'Master, it is the crowds round you, pushing.' But Jesus said, 'Somebody touched me. I felt that power had gone out from me.'

'Seeing herself discovered, the woman came forward trembling, and falling at his feet explained in front of all the people why she had touched him and how she had been cured at that very moment. 'My daughter,' he said, 'your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

## **Reflection Questions**

- What word, phrase or idea struck you in the readings?
- What do you think God is trying to say to you personally through these words?
- Jairus was the most important Jewish religious leader in the town. Jesus was the opposition. Asking Jesus for help, falling at his feet may have involved great shame. He could no longer be 'proud'. He may lose his job in the synagogue. But he wants his daughter to have life. He falls at Jesus' feet. Are you wanting to share with Jesus your deepest pain and need? What holds you back?
- Jairus had labelled the bleeding woman unclean according to Jewish Law (at the same time his little girl was born). Woman often experienced complications after childbirth which involved bleeding. For 12 years this woman was unclean. She could not touch anyone. She was outcast. Untouchable, unloveable, lonely. She would most probably stay inside never going out. Afraid. Try to enter the experience of this woman. What attitudes and decisions does she inspire you to make?
- Jesus does not want a personal, spiritual, private healing. Why?
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?