

**HOPELESS SITUATIONS CHANGED**  
**BY FAITH IN JESUS!**  
**MATTHEW CH9:18-26 (Mark Ch5:21-43 + Luke Ch8:40-56)**

**ILLUSTRATION**

What does the worldly saying “You need to walk the talk” mean? What does Jesus mean in v13? He is aligning the Pharisees and the people of Hosea's time. Both groups are so caught up on the rituals and the sacrifices required in their interpretations of the Law, that they have forgotten the real God of the Bible!

Matthew is writing to Jews, his own people, who are so steeped in law, tradition, rituals and sacrifices, that there is no room for genuine faith in God! Matthew records for us here miracles, that force his readers to the realization that Jesus “walks the talk” and demonstrates mercy, to those that come to Him in their hopelessness, with faith that He alone can help!

**A PUBLIC REQUEST! V18-19**

Here is a ruler of a synagogue, a place for the men to gather and hear from God's Word, teach God's Word and to think through it's application for their lives and communities. Yet, this Jewish ruler, has no answer to his hopeless situation apart from heading to seek out Jesus, where he kneels before Him, publicly, with a desperate request! What must the crowd have thought, seeing one of their rulers, bowing before Jesus and being so desperate?

Will Jesus “walk the talk” and show mercy? Mercy, being “not receiving what we deserve”. Will Jesus, through His coming into the world, continue to show grace and mercy, which has characterized His ministry so far? Except this time, it's not just healing, it's bringing someone who is dead, back to life!

What's going to happen? Well, before we can find out, Matthew records for us another request! Except this time it's not public, but personal.

**A PERSONAL REQUEST! V20-22**

A lady that has suffered for 12 years with bleeding that doctors, whilst caring for her, have caused more suffering and are unable to cure her! This bleeding, according to the Old Testament Law and regulations, would have resulted in exclusion from the community and the need for sacrifices to be made (Lev Ch15).

Why does Jesus want mercy not sacrifice (v13)?

This woman approaches Jesus in her situation of hopelessness, as doctors and money cannot help her, and secretly without letting anyone know, she in faith touches Jesus. Jesus realizes that power has gone out from Him, He notices the woman and rewards her faith. She is cured. Not only cured, but now clean, and through Jesus stating that she is healed, can be part of the community once again.

Jesus shows mercy again, because He is the ultimate sacrifice, He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, He is the one who through His death, pays the penalty for our sin.

***Jesus has the authority to deal with any situation that meets us! Jesus can do what seems to us impossible!***

### **A PRIVATE REQUEST! V23-26**

The story continues with the ruler and his daughter who has died. The crowd who are at the house and causing a commotion, are told to go away. They start laughing at Jesus because of what He says (see also John Ch11:11), literally “laughing Jesus down” and so are told to leave, for they have no place in the ministry of Jesus!

Jesus takes the parents and three of His disciples, Simon, James and John and He touches the daughter and tells her “little girl get up”. The girl gets up!

What does death represent? The wages of sin is death. Death is the ultimate sign of sin! Jesus demonstrates that He has power over death, and continues to let His ministry be characterized by grace and mercy.

***Jesus has the authority to deal with any situation that meets us! Jesus can do what seems to us impossible!***

### **APPLICATION**

What was hopeless about the woman's situation, before she came to Jesus?

What kind of faith did she put in Jesus?

In which two ways did Jesus reward her faith?

What “hopeless” situations are you facing?

What does these incidents involving Jesus teach us?