



Western Fells Methodist Circuit

27 June 2021

**by
David Hasson**

Today is Conference Sunday in the Methodist Church. Representatives are meeting together in the National Conference Centre in Birmingham with many weighty items to make decisions about. The first Conference I attended was in Birmingham. As Conference always opens with the same Charles Wesley hymn each year, which they sing unaccompanied, I thought it would be good to open today's worship with that same hymn. The music is from the opening of Conference in 2017 when the singing wasn't as good as I remember it from the few times I have been at conference.

Hymn – Singing the Faith 456

And are we yet alive
and see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give
for his redeeming grace!

Preserved by power divine
to full salvation here,
again in Jesu's praise we join,
and in his sight appear.

What troubles have we seen,
what conflicts have we passed,
fightings without, and fears within,
since we assembled last!

Music [here](#)

But out of all the Lord
has brought us by his love;
and still he does his help afford,
and hides our life above.

Then let us make our boast
of his redeeming power,
which saves us to the uttermost,
till we can sin no more.

Let us take up the cross,
till we the crown obtain;
and gladly reckon all things loss,
so we may Jesus gain.

Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!
Praise ye the Lord, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
praise ye the Lord!

Prayers

Praise God for his provision for us.
Thank Jesus for all he has done for us.
Praise the Holy Spirit for his work within us.
Give thanks for corporate worship again
Remember those who still feel the need to stay at home.
Bring to mind those who are suffering in any way at this time
Remember our members of Conference as they deal with all the business some of which is controversial.
Pray for our government as it seeks to make difficult decisions.
Think of the countries where Covid is rife and medical services are overwhelmed.
Pray for the church as it looks to the future and how to reach people for Christ.
Pray for your, and your families, needs

We offer these prayers in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Say The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Another Conference favourite Hymn – StF 470 this time sung by Northallerton Methodist Church Choir Music [here](#)

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for our land, in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for that word, the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us,
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our world; when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain;
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him,
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord, for ourselves; in living power remake us,
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne;
past put behind us, for the future take us,
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith

Bible Reading – Mark 5 : verses 21 - 43

Jesus Heals a Dead Girl and a Suffering Woman

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. It landed at the other side. There a large crowd gathered around him. Then a man named Jairus came. He was a synagogue leader. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He begged Jesus, "Please come. My little daughter is dying. Place your hands on her to heal her. Then she will live." So Jesus went with him.

A large group of people followed. They crowded around him. A woman was there who had a sickness that made her bleed. It had lasted for 12 years. She had suffered a great deal, even though she had gone to many doctors. She had spent all the money she had. But she was getting worse, not better. Then she heard about Jesus. She came up behind him in the crowd and touched his clothes. She thought, "I just need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed." Right away her bleeding stopped. She felt in her body that her suffering was over.

At once Jesus knew that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd. He asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

"You see the people," his disciples answered. "They are crowding against you. And you still ask, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus kept looking around. He wanted to see who had touched him. Then the woman came and fell at his feet. She knew what had happened to her. She was shaking with fear. But she told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Dear woman, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. You are free from your suffering."

While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus. He was the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

Jesus heard what they were saying. He told the synagogue leader, "Don't be afraid. Just believe."

He let only Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, follow him. They came to the home of the synagogue leader. There Jesus saw a lot of confusion. People were crying and sobbing loudly. He went inside. Then he said to them, "Why all this confusion and sobbing? The child is not dead. She is only sleeping." But they laughed at him.

He made them all go outside. He took only the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him. And he went in where the child was. He took her by the hand. Then he said to her, "Talitha koum!" This means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" The girl was 12 years old. Right away she stood up and began to walk around. They were totally amazed at this. Jesus gave strict orders not to let anyone know what had happened. And he told them to give her something to eat.

Talk / Reflection

This week's Gospel reading covers two healing stories, a bleeding woman and a synagogue ruler's daughter who had died, I take it that bringing back to life from death can be counted as a healing.

The woman had heard about Jesus and their paths crossed when Jesus was on the way to the home of Jairus to see to his daughter. At that time a large crowd was gathered around Jesus making it almost impossible to get to him. It was a human wall. No doubt having heard some of the stories about Jesus the woman was determined to get to him. She believed that just touching him would make a difference to her which no doctor had been able to do for the last twelve years. Her determination to touch Jesus got her through the crowd and into a position where she could do just that. She touched his clothes and immediately her bleeding stopped and so did Jesus. He turned round and wanted to know who had touched him. Imagine how alert Jesus must have been to sense that particular touch amongst all the other touches that happened while the crowd milled around him. But he did and he knows what we need in the midst of all that demands his attention the individual is important to him. He recognises what we need and freely gives.

Her determination to get to Jesus because she expected him to meet her needs paid off and she was healed.

This story raises two questions for me. Do we turn to Jesus for help when we are in need? Are we so determined to get that help that nothing puts us off getting to the place at the feet of Jesus to receive that help?

It was similar with the daughter of Jairus except that it was the determination of the father to bring Jesus to his daughter which brought healing.

Jairus was a synagogue ruler, a group which had close ties with the Pharisees. and therefore would have been under pressure not to support Jesus. Yet here we find him falling at the feet of Jesus and pleading with him to come to his house and heal his daughter who was dying. He just wanted Jesus to come and put his hands on her so that she would be healed. He obviously wasn't your standard synagogue ruler if he believed that would happen and if he was prepared to ignore all the criticism and persecution he would experience as a result of his request to Jesus.

Jairus must have been getting impatient with Jesus when he stopped to find out who had touched him. Surely that wasn't important at this time when Jesus needed to get to the sick daughter. And then word came that the daughter had died and they were too late. Imagine his feelings of despair. Yet Jesus didn't bat an eyelid just said 'Do not be afraid. Just believe.'

People felt it was a waste of time going any further but Jesus knew different and continued on the journey. As a result the little girl was healed.

I wonder if we are prepared to go against the views of those around us to bring Jesus to those who need him. Or do we shy away because we are frightened of the mocking and scoffing which might result. Or perhaps we give up when an obstacle is placed in our way and things don't happen as we expect. This story shows us not to let what others might say to us stop us from talking to Jesus and introducing people to him. It also shows us that our timetable isn't always the correct one and therefore we shouldn't give up if hold ups occur. God can make any situation right no matter how late he may appear to be on the scene.

Pray for that same determination, the ability to ignore the scoffing of others, and the willingness to work to God's timetable.

Hymn – StF 520

Music [here](#)

Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart
and discerning mind;
give, as I play the Christian's part,
the strength to finish what I start
and act on what I find.

By your divine and urgent claim,
and by your human face,
kindle our sinking hearts to flame,
and as you teach the world your name
let it become your place.

When, in the rush of days, my will
is habit-bound and slow,
help me to keep in vision still
what love and power and peace can fill
a life that trusts in you.

Jesus, with all your Church I long
to see your kingdom come:
show me your way of righting wrong
and turning sorrow into song
until you bring me home.

Thomas Caryl Micklem

Blessing

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers,
feeding us with your word,
and encouraging us in our meeting together.
Take us and use us
to love and serve you, and all people,
in the power of your Spirit
and in the name of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**