“Revealed” with James Fortune and FIYA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=heCK1PEZF1g>

“The Curse is Broken” with James Fortune and FIYA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Uf1B5URDnU>

“Still Able” with James Fortune and FIYA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pSgjEtgYLg>

 “Holy Captivated” by Nicole Mullen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIvG98O2SeQ>

“The Spirit of the Lord (Isaiah 61)” with Antonia Lawrence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzDYxfiVD2M>

“Lead Me Guide Me” with Rev. Cleophus Robinson and the Combined Choirs of Memphis, TN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qajoeUBZYGI>

“The Presence of the Lord is Here” with Byron Cage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OpO6EL2kbM>

“Fill Me Up” with Casey J

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Inywc7hW14s>

“Build Your Kingdom Here” with the Rend Collective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bl13kqX1d4>

“I Will Follow Him” in Sister Act

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ghHE_kVWXxM>

“I Will Rise” with Chris Tomlin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yvfso4Q8xg>

“My Soul is a Witness For My Lord” with Mt. Ramah Primitive Baptist Association 2011 Thomaston, GA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcTu0njFdfc>

“Who Will Be a Witness?” with Red Hill Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd-HLN2PoaA>

“Who’ll Be a Witness?” with Shirley Caesar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bkMu7fpsRY>

**Bearing Witness to the Work of God in Our Lives**

***Matthew 9:9-25***

 Praise the Lord! How’s it going? This week I pray that we will follow God’s wonderful work and become the fresh containers for what God is doing. *[T]hey put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved, Matthew 9:17b.*

 *18 While [Jesus] spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.*

 *19 And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.*

 *20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:*

 *21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.*

 *22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.*

 *23 And when Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise,*

 *24 He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.*

 *25 But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.*

This is an amazing story. Jesus had just called Matthew to be a disciple. *As Jesus passed forth from [his house], he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him, Matthew 9:9*

Jesus arose and followed the ruler who came to Jesus the same way that Matthew suddenly arose and followed Jesus. *18b [T]here came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but came and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. 19 And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples, Matthew 9:18-19.*

 Jesus must have been intrigued with the ruler’s faith. God had given so much faith to the ruler that even though the ruler said that his daughter was dead, the ruler believed that Jesus could lay hands on her and raise her from the dead.

The ruler also had so much love for his daughter that he was willing to publicly worship Jesus and publicly ask Jesus to do something that would have brought more embarrassment to the ruler if his daughter remained dead.

Jesus must have been so intrigued with what God did in the life of the ruler that Jesus seemed to take on the persona of a ruler who cared about His own daughter. When the woman with the issue of blood for twelve years touched the hem of Jesus’ garment, Jesus turned around to her and called her daughter, saying, *“Daughter, be of good comfort,” Matthew 9:22.*

Jesus was now the ruler who loved His children and believed to see His children rise from the dead. In fact, Jesus came to earth to worship and obey God so that He could save us. Jesus witnessed the faith that God gave to the ruler about His daughter, and decided to walk in the same faith as a ruler seeking to save the lives of his daughter, who had an issue of blood, and all of us.

This woman who was Jesus’ daughter *said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole, Matthew 9:21.* The woman with the issue of blood determined within that she could be healed.

Jesus seemed to have understood the faith work that God did within the woman with the issue of blood, and did the same type of faith work within Himself. Jesus seems to have come within Himself to a new reality that God healed the ruler’s daughter. The ruler’s daughter was not dead in Jesus’ mind. The ruler’s daughter was just sleeping.

Jesus witnessed the work of God. Because of the work of God, the ruler’s daughter was not dead.

Jesus changed His mind and thus committed to changing the environment around Him in connection to what God had done. The minstrels [or flute-players G834 (auletes)] were making a noise with the people. But this was out of place with what Jesus knew that God was doing. God had been working in the life of the ruler’s daughter, and the funeral flue-players were out of place.

So Jesus bore witness to what God was doing in the ruler’s house and told the flute players and people to *“Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth,” Matthew 9:24.*  We might only begin to imagine the people and flute players laughing Jesus to scorn. But in the midst of all that derision, Jesus faithfully believed in what God was doing and witnessed to a need to be in a similar atmosphere of healing and new life.

*Jesus went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose, Matthew 9:25b.* Jesus believed in what God had done in the faith of the ruler who first believed that Jesus could lay hands on the ruler’s daughter and heal her. Jesus simply followed the faith that God gave the ruler and laid hands on her. She arose.

And I hope that we all will arise: arise to bear witness to what God is doing. God is sending people all around us who believe that God can redeem their lives and the lives of their loved ones. May we bear witness to what God is doing for them and see how we are the Lovers or Beloved in their stories. May we also bear witness to the faith that God is building in our hearts so that we can see the new things that God is doing and has already done for us. The laying on of our hands and our faith can be just as powerful as Jesus’ work in bearing witness to what God was doing for the ruler’s daughter.

Look at the amazing things that God is doing!

Tobias Pinckney, Powered to Witness University, 9/17/16

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