

51/G/PM

Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham
18th. March, 1951

Hymns: 943, 997

Reading: Mark. 5, 25-36

Here are two instances of wonderful faith in the Son of God. This poor woman came to Him under conditions of great sickness and distress, long affliction and the failure of many doctors and physicians to heal her. But there was one who had power, and faith was in the heart of this woman to believe that she would be healed if she could but have contact with Him. She said, and this is very sweet, "If I may touch but His clothes I shall be whole". Not just a ray of hope, if only I can but touch the hem of His garment there is just a ray of hope, that I shall be whole. Great results followed great faith as the events here show. Jesus knew all things and when He said, "Who touched my clothes?" it was not because He was ignorant of the person who had touched Him, but in order to commend her faith. There was something about that touch altogether different from the pressing of the multitude that was thronging Him. There was faith in that touch! It was done to her as she desired, although when enquiry was made for her she feared greatly lest she had presumed; for she came fearing and trembling and fell down before Him. But what confirmation, what a dispelling of all her fears and inward trembling of mind, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole, go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." It was Christ that made her whole, but that faith that He wrought in her heart was necessary in order to the accomplishing of it as to her experience.

This was an interception and while He was thus speaking a messenger came from the ruler of the synagogue's house saying, "Thy daughter is dead". They said, there is no need for you to go now; it is to no purpose; the child is dead. But when Jesus heard that, He said unto the ruler of the synagogue, "Be not afraid, only believe". Much was couched in that word, a gracious

confidence in the Lord's power not only to heal the sick but to raise the dead, "Be not afraid". O what a striking statement, and how confirming it must have been to this ruler, "Be not afraid", do not fear on account of this, be not afraid of death, I am above death; death and hell are in my hand, I have the keys of both, "Be not afraid, only believe". That word 'only' is so very significant here as though it is just this one thing; and what a great thing! Now if the Lord be pleased to speak that into the heart He will bring confidence with it and impart that faith which can rise above mountains and difficulties and fears, faith to see Christ above death and above all men and devils. "Be not afraid, only believe".

Perhaps you have something before you that gives rise to apprehensions of mind, something very formidable, but if you can see God above it as Jacob saw God above the ladder and can believe in Him, it will bring such a confidence and such a quietness, "Be not afraid, only believe". Commit your case unto Him, lean upon Him; He will not fail you. Oh the unbelief and the opposition that is in us which does so often rise up and seem to quench these good things! But to be brought to this place is wonderful, it is a triumph of faith and shall surely follow with success. "Be not afraid, only believe."

Further reading Psalm 130