

Holy Vessels

Different Pictures

Prolonged times of difficulty can impede our ability to stay creative. The picture of our lives is dulled and hope for a brighter future can fade. We need a touch of inspiration to awaken us from our sleep, inspiration that we hear in this week's healing stories. But inspiration isn't enough – we also need to awaken our inner spirit by reaching out and connecting to the power that can restore both our intellect and our imagination. When we do, we will emerge ready to re-engage with the world, seeking and seeing solutions, creating different pictures of life renewed just as a mosaic artist creates beauty from broken pieces of glass.

Matthew 9:18–26

1. In what ways do you need “new life”?

2. Note some contrasts between the two stories:

His Name: _____

Her Name: _____

How He Met Jesus: _____

How She Met Jesus: _____

Where She Was Healed: _____

Where His Child Was Healed: _____

Who Heard About the Resurrection: _____

Who Heard About the Salvation: _____

3. What's holding you back from experiencing new life?

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'll be “here” next Sunday
- I'll invite a friend
- I'll stretch myself and pray with/for someone
- I'll reach out to care for someone by video or phone

Digging Deeper

Week of March 14, 2021

Holy Vessels: Different Pictures of New Life

Scripture: Matthew 9:18–26

Introduction: Throughout the New Testament, we see picture after picture of people with a new life. Over the past couple of weeks, we've heard about many different healings, and each one of those stories helped the individuals experience a kind of new life. In the passage Dr. Bill read and spoke about this week, you heard two very different stories. Two women, one young and one not, who received a special touch from Jesus and were restored in very different ways. Their stories beg the question: What does the promise of a new life really look like?

1. Read Matthew 9:18–26. What are some of the differences between the healing pictures of the synagogue leader (Jairus – Mark 5:22) and the unnamed woman?
2. Read Leviticus 15:19–30. What kinds of family and community activities would the unnamed woman have been prevented from participating in? What do you think her emotional and spiritual state would have been after twelve years of this?
3. Why do you think the funeral crowd laughed at Jesus' pronouncement that the girl wasn't dead?
4. How did the crowd respond *after* the resurrection? How did the disciples respond after the healing of the unnamed woman?
5. Dr. Bill said that the daughter who experienced resurrection would have probably gone "out to play with her friends" the afternoon of her miracle. How do you think the lives of the little girl and the unnamed woman would have been different after their healings?
6. What is the significance that Jesus healed Jairus' daughter and called the unnamed woman "daughter"?
7. In John 10:10, Jesus promises his followers a life that is full and abundant, and in 2 Corinthians 5:17 believers are called "new creations." What do you think are some of the features of a "new life"?