



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Practicing The Presence of People**

**Speaker: : Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor**

**Scriptures: Matthew 9:18-22**

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**Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

18 While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” 19 Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.”

22 Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Pastor Rich will continue our series on contemplative rhythms. Looking at the life of Jesus we will explore the ways we are called to connect our life with God to the practice of presence with people.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. Describe a time where you felt seen by someone or witnessed someone else who needed to be seen be met with compassion.
2. Read Matthew 9:18-22. What strikes you about the way Jesus responded to the needs of the people in this passage?
3. Pastor Rich shared three ways to practice the presence of people: 1) See others for who they are: image bearers of God 2) See beyond the social labels we put on people 3) Remember that we are fully seen and loved by the God who sees.

Share one way you have been challenged in these areas to see people as image bearers, to get beyond social labels or to allow yourself to believe that God sees and loves you?

4. Powers and principalities exist to deceive, divide, and dehumanize. In what ways do you see these powers and principalities at work in our world
5. Pray and ask God who he most wants you to practice the presence of people with this week? Consider the three groups Pastor Rich invited us to pay attention to: those closest to us, the poor and the vulnerable, and those who you disagree with politically.