

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "DEMONSTRATING SAVING FAITH"

For individual study or group discussion

Returning from the country of the Gerasenes, a great crowd swarms about Jesus as he is welcomed back to Capernaum. In today's passage, Luke 8:40-56, we encounter two people on opposite sides of the social spectrum desperately approaching Jesus, trusting in his compassion and power (vv. 40-44): a ruler and an untouchable.

Jairus is a ruler in the local synagogue and represents the established religious authority of his day. It is likely that he heard Jesus as a visiting rabbi teach in the synagogue. Whatever attitude he held concerning Jesus before, we now see Jairus fall at Jesus' feet, pleading for the life of his only daughter (vv. 41-42).

- What is significant about Jairus' approach to Jesus? Name one type of responsibility of a synagogue ruler. (Luke 4:17, 20; Acts 13:15)
- During Jesus' ministry, what was the typical attitude of synagogue rulers toward him? (Luke 13:14; John 9:22)
- "Sometimes desperation is the door through which faith enters."<sup>1</sup> When desperate times and personal crises occur, why do you think more people open up to the Gospel? When in desperate need, where do you turn for help?

Luke interrupts Jairus' story and introduces a woman who "had a discharge of blood." Desperate for healing and restoration, she touches the fringe of Jesus' garment (v. 44). Preferring anonymity, she hesitates when Jesus asks, "Who was it that touched me?" John Calvin concludes in his commentary that while this woman in the crowd moves toward Christ, Christ is in fact moving toward her.<sup>2</sup> Feeling the miracle of healing within her own body, she faithfully responds to Jesus' call to be seen as restored (vv. 45-48).

- Compare the woman's position with that of Jairus'. What kind of relationship did she have to the synagogue and community? (Leviticus 15:25-31)
- When we share our testimonies with others, we bring glory to God by bearing public witness to his grace in our lives. Go back and read the parable of *The Lamp Under a Jar* (Luke 8:16). Why is it important for Christians to declare God's goodness to others? (cf. Matthew 5:15-16)
- This is the only place in the New Testament where Jesus calls a woman, "daughter." How does his naming her "daughter" relate to our earlier studies in Luke 8:19-21?

Knowing the ceremonial laws, Jairus is probably alarmed to hear that an unclean woman just touched Jesus. Levitical law would have Jesus wash and quarantine for seven days. But rather than the Lord becoming unclean by her touch, the woman is healed and made clean by the power of the Holy Spirit in him (v. 46).

- Where else did Jesus touch what was unclean in order to renew and restore? (Luke 5:13; 7:14) According to Matthew 5:17, what did Jesus come to do?

Upon hearing the news that his daughter had died, one can only imagine the grief Jairus felt in that moment. But Jesus looks at Jairus and says, "Do not fear; only believe" (v. 50). Why does Jesus say, "Do not fear"? In C. S. Lewis's book, *A Grief Observed*, he shares his experience after the death of his wife: "No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear. I am not afraid, but the sensation is like being afraid. The same fluttering in the stomach, the same restlessness, the yawning. I keep on swallowing."<sup>3</sup> Responding in faith, Jairus leads Jesus to his daughter, humbly trusting his timing and power (vv. 49-56).

- When Jesus resurrects Jairus' daughter, he directs her parents not to tell anyone (v. 56). And yet when the woman with the issue of blood tries to hide, Jesus calls her out of the crowd to testify. Why do you think this is? (See also Paul's reason for testifying in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.)
- Can you think of a time when you felt like you didn't matter, like you were invisible? What does today's passage show you about Jesus' love and compassion? Read Psalm 56:8, 1 Peter 5:7, and Hebrews 4:16.

DATE: May 22, 2022

SPEAKER: Wil/Brian

SERIES: Gospel of Luke

PASSAGE: Luke 8:40-56

## Family Dinner Table

Edward Shillito (1872-1948) was a minister in the Free Church of England who had witnessed the suffering of wounded soldiers returning home from the front lines of the First World War. Where was God in all the pain and suffering? As a response, he penned the following poem for those who were desperate and alone in their suffering:

### *Jesus of the Scars*

*If we have never sought, we seek Thee now;  
Thine eyes burn through the dark, our only stars;  
We must have sight of thorn-pricks on Thy brow,  
We must have Thee, O Jesus of the Scars.  
The heavens frighten us; they are too calm;  
In all the universe we have no place.  
Our wounds are hurting us; where is the balm?  
Lord Jesus, by Thy Scars, we claim Thy grace.  
If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,  
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;  
We know today what wounds are, have no fear,  
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.  
The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;  
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;  
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,  
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.*

- Discuss as a family what you have learned about Jesus in today's lesson.
- Pray that the power and compassion of Jesus might be clear to those who are suffering, so that they might be led to trust and place their faith in him.

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

**TVP Church Plant Movement,**  
*denominational partner ministry*  
**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**

**Kim & Michael Essenburg,** *supported missionary partners, serving at Kyoto International University Academy in Japan.*

<sup>1</sup>Brownback, Lydia. *The Loneliness of Being Different*. The Gospel Coalition, July 22, 2021. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/loneliness-different/>

<sup>2</sup>Calvin, John. *Luke 8-Calvin's Commentary on the Bible*. StudyLight.org. <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/cal/luke-8.html>

<sup>3</sup>Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. NY, NY: HarperOne Publishers, 2015. 3