

Faith and Lives LUKE 8:40-56

As we continue our journey thru Luke, today we see 2 different aspects of faith and Gods timing. everyone knew that a touch from Jesus can change everything. Jesus gets out of the boat, there in the crowd is Jairus.

Jairus was a temple official, a well-known and important man in the community. His 12 yr old daughter -at the point of death and Jairus is desperate and pleading with Jesus to come to his house and heal her. He grovels at Jesus feet and begs – one important man to another. Jesus starts off towards Jairus house with the crowd going along too. Along the way there is another person who needs Jesus. A woman who has been bleeding for 12 yrs. So hard for her, a woman and that puts her at the bottom of society.

Leviticus 15:25-30

So for 12 yrs she has been continually ritually unclean – cant join in religious life, cant join normal in life. She has not been touched by anyone else for 12 yrs,) She has been living life on the peripheries of society. But she knows what Jesus can do. Her desperate lunge skims the edge of Jesus cloak and immediately the flow of blood stops and at that moment a dozen years of suffering ends. “who touched me?” asks Jesus. And Peter points out the obvious – ‘everyone is crushing around you ‘ But Jesus knows that power has gone out of him. He wants to expose the silent faith of the woman. He knows that the woman’s touch was one that pleaded for help and found it. Jesus sees her. He busts through all the social expectations and he looks at - really sees – this woman – and Jesus speaks words of kindness and restoration from his heart of compassion. He calls her ‘daughter’ –restoring her to the community because of her faith. He takes her ‘smouldering ember’ of faith and he fans it into a flame. Meanwhile imagine how Jairus is feeling as Jesus stops and delays and when the servant arrives to say that his precious daughter has died. Jesus offers words of comfort to Jairus – not to fear but believe.

While the bleeding womans faith was asked to be bought out of its shell, Jairus faith is called on to hang in there. Jesus takes her hand – once again rendering himself ritually unclean.

‘Child arise!’ he says, and she does!

Here we see Jesus’ authority at work in these 2 stories.

1. Faith is organic and varied

We are not a 1 size fits all people. God does not have a uniform plan that we each are in, and so it is with our faith. We see 2 different aspects of faith: the woman was asked to bring her faith out of its shell.

Have you ever had to put aside embarrassment and fear to grow your faith? Faith is strengthened and grows when we share. Jairus faith was called on to hang in there in, to be persistent and trusting. It looked impossible ,frustrated he was as it appears Jesus is wasting time. We often struggle with Gods timing and much of faith is in accepting Gods timing for things that happen in our lives.

2. Lives matter

We see Jesus at work among the lives in society that didn’t matter. Time and time again we see Jesus break down the societal norms of the time. If Jesus was here, if he was to shake your hand he would look directly into your eyes into your soul because to him – you matter. Everyone matters to Jesus. If we can look at every person that we come across in our day, thru the eyes of Jesus , then each person matters, each person is created in the image of God (as we are) and each person is deserving of our love and kindness. No one is ever too little , no one is ever too lost

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REFLECTION + DISCUSSION

1. What is your faith struggling with at the moment?
2. What does your faith need from God?
3. As you look back, where have you seen God at work in retrospect?
4. Who are you in contact with that you need to see again thru Jesus eyes?
5. And do you need to see yourself thru Jesus eyes again? What would he say to you if he was here now?



CENTRAL BAPTIST

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