

Luke 8:40-56 – Jairus' Daughter and the Bleeding Woman

Do you have faith? This chapter of Luke is about faith. The disciples were challenged by Jesus: “where is your faith?”(v25). Over the other side of the lake, the people had asked Jesus to leave. Now, the people were waiting for Jesus, wanting to hear from him. But when we read, we find that very few of them had true faith. In this part, two very different people – Jairus, and an unnamed woman – teach us important lessons about true faith in Christ. Many people come near to Christ; but do you truly believe?

1. Jairus and his daughter (v40-42)

There was a man called Jairus. He was a ruler in the synagogue – a man of status and respected by the people of God. Not all the rulers hated Jesus; many did, but not all. Though Jairus had status, yet in the face of death he was powerless. His daughter was now dying – his only daughter, who was just about to leave childhood and become a young woman. But now hope seemed lost. He threw himself down before Jesus and pleaded with him. In the face of the problems of sin, death and hell we have no power. We can do nothing except to plead that Jesus may have mercy upon us. Once he threw himself upon Jesus, all was going to be well. His faith would be greatly tested, as will ours – but all would be well.

2. A woman and her sickness (v43-48)

This woman was in a terrible situation. For 12 years she had been bleeding. She was unclean, and not allowed to worship at the temple. Her touch made others unclean too. She would have felt very weak. She had been to many doctors, but lost all her money and gained nothing. For 12 years she had suffered. She is a picture of the unsaved. Nothing we can do can save ourselves. Man's efforts only make us worse. We are lost and helpless. This desperate woman came to Jesus – and that is the only thing to do. She could not come openly (she was unclean) but believed that just a touch would heal; and it did. Her faith was not perfect and she was afraid – but she had faith, and that was enough. Jesus wanted her to now come forward openly. He knew all that had happened, but wanted her to be a light also to others. He was not angry; he spoke kindly and gently to her, calling her “daughter”. The crowd heard her testimony. If you are saved, then you need to come forward and testify to others through being baptised and joining the church.

3. Jairus' daughter raised from the dead (v49-56)

The news then came that Jairus' daughter had died. It was too late – all hope seemed gone. Had Jesus made a mistake? That is not possible! Jesus told him to believe. Often we think it is “too late” - but if we trust in Christ we shall find that he knows the right time for everything. There were many mourners at the house, but most of them mocked and laughed at Jesus. They honoured him as a teacher, but did not believe his words. So Jesus only took a few in with him. He let the others not know what had really happened – it is only with believing hearts that we can know the truth. He raised her up with just a word, showing his power and kindness. What he did for her, he will one day do for all believers. Death itself will be left totally defeated. But do we have faith? Do we believe his words? Have we listened to his promises and taken them to heart? He died and rose to take away our sins; eternal life is only in him.