



Sunday School Lesson for August 14, 2005
Released on August 10, 2005

"Hope for Healing"

LESSON

St. Luke 8:40-56

TIME

A.D. 28

PLACE

Capernaum

GOLDEN TEXT

"Then He said unto her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.'" Luke 8:48 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

Today's lesson's illustration says simply, "Faith + Jesus = Hope." With this equation at the ready disposal of Christians throughout the world, there is no need for us to doubt what God can do in our lives and in the world around us.

The prophet Daniel in the Old Testament recorded the following response that was directed to King Nebuchadnezzar by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego prior to their being thrown into the fiery furnace for failing to fall down and worship his golden image. "Our God whom we serve is *able* to deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up" (Daniel 3:17, 18).

Their resolve to not defile themselves in idol worship was backed up by an amazing faith that God was *able* to deliver them from an awful and very painful death by "burning (in a) fiery furnace." While our equation would need to be tweaked a bit to state, "Faith + *God* = Hope," our understanding of the Trinity (God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit) proves to us that both equations are correct. Nonetheless, our hope is in Jesus! Even if God does not allow the thing that we are hoping for to come to pass, this is by no means a reflection of His inability to do the same. We should be reminded that God is omnipotent (all-powerful), and being so is able to do the unimaginable!

Today's lesson examines the extreme faith that two people had in Jesus' capacity to do the impossible: Jairus and the woman with an issue of blood. Both of these characters exhibited "Hope for Healing." And we too can trust God today-not only

for spiritual and physical healing, but also to *fix* whatever needs fixing in our lives. His Word tells us that God "is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us" (Ephesians 3:20, NIV). Do not make the mistake of placing limits on an Almighty God! Neither God's love nor His power is limited by our human imagination. Continue to trust Him and work your faith.

TODAY'S AIM

FACTS: to show how Jesus offered hope to Jairus and the woman with the hemorrhage of blood.

PRINCIPLE: to show that faith in Jesus helps us resolve our most difficult and impossible situations.

APPLICATION: to encourage students to see difficult situations as opportunities to trust in Jesus and see Him work.

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. A Woman Healed-Luke 8:40-44
- II. Words of Hope-Luke 8:45-50
- III. A Girl Raised-Luke 8:51-56

LESSON TEXT

⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him.

⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house

⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years,^[a] but no one could heal her.

⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

⁴⁸Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

⁴⁹While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more."

⁵⁰Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

⁵¹When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother.

⁵²Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

⁵³They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.

⁵⁴But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!"

⁵⁵Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.

⁵⁶Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

QUESTIONS

1. What lead Jesus to travel back to Capernaum, and who met Him there? (Luke 8:26-41)

Jesus had been in the country of Gadarenes—which was probably a town about five miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee; it was located in a predominantly Gentile region. While there, Jesus cast a legion of demons out of a man and sent them into a herd of pigs, which then perished by running off a steep place into a lake and drowned. This caused the people there to ask Jesus to leave because they were "seized with great fear" (v. 37). So, getting into a boat, Jesus left and traveled to Capernaum on the northwest corner of the sea. Because of Jesus' effective ministry in Capernaum, the people were glad to see Him return. A large crowd met him. Included in this crowd were Jairus and the woman with the bleeding disorder (whom we'll refer to as the Woman for the remainder of the lesson).

2. What individual sought out Jesus, and why was he looking for Him so desperately? (Luke 8:41-42a)

It was Jairus who approached Jesus upon His arrival at Capernaum. Jairus is described as being a "ruler of the synagogue," which meant that he was a religious leader who most likely conducted services and saw to it that order was kept in the building. Jairus' seeking out Jesus gives evidence that Jesus was accepted by some of the Jews. He had heard and believed greatly that Jesus was able to help him. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged that He come to Jairus' house to see his *only* 12-year-old daughter who was ill and dying. Jairus had hoped that Jesus could heal his

daughter. He had no idea that Jesus would end up doing more than just heal his daughter... He was going to restore life to her soon-to-be dead body. We do not know what Jairus might have seen or heard about Jesus prior to His visit to Capernaum, but Jairus was right in realizing that Jesus was the only one who could help in this case.

3. What happened to interrupt Jesus' journey to Jairus' house? (Luke 8:42b-44)

While Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house, the crowd continued to swamp Him from all sides; they were moving with Him causing His progress to be very slow. But, in the midst of this, a woman who had been suffering with hemorrhaging for twelve years managed to come up behind Jesus and touch the border of His garment. Mark 5:26 indicates that she "had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse." *The moment* she touched Jesus' garment, however, she was immediately and completely healed! What even doctors-like Luke himself-had been unable to do in twelve years, Jesus did instantaneously just by a touch.

4. Why was it so significant that Jesus asked who had touched Him? (Luke 8:45-46)

We know that Jesus in His omniscience already knew who this woman was, that she was going to be in Capernaum at this appointed time, and that she was going to come behind Him and touch His garment. Jesus even already divinely knew that she had been suffering with this hemorrhaging for twelve years. The significance of His question, however, brings attention to the Woman's act of a subject kneeling before the King-showing her desire and willingness to be loyal and submissive. It was an act of hope based on what she had heard about this Man, now being accepted by many as the Messiah. In a single act of desperation, she reached out, touched the garment's hem, and was healed. Jesus' question posed one of authority and it also caused everyone around Him to deny having touched Him. Such an illogical question it was that Peter and others questioned why Jesus could even ask this when so many people were crowding in on Him. Jesus wanted all present to know that a miraculous yet private healing had taken place. Only He and the Woman had immediately known what had happened, but with this question, all would soon discover what took place.

5. What did Jesus say to the woman, and to what was He really responding when He addressed her? (Luke 8:46-48)

When the Woman realized that Jesus "perceived power going out from (Him)" (v. 46b), she knew at that point that she was no longer hidden by the crowd; that the One whom she had touched, she could not hide from. Maybe immediately after her healing she had thought that she could get a healing and quietly slip away to begin a new life without her horrible illness. But, with great trembling, she came forward and fell down at Jesus' feet explaining in front of everyone the reason she had touched his garment's border, and that she was immediately and completely healed. What boldness for a woman had lived the past twelve years labeled and treated by all as unclean because of her discharge. Jesus responded to the Woman's single act of faith-which was very different from all the other many accidental touches by the people who walked with and bumped into Him. Understand that Jesus in His

omniscience would not have needed to ask who touched Him, but for her benefit He gave her the opportunity to express her faith before all the people. It was *this* faith, not the action itself, to which Jesus responded. Finally, He addressed her as "daughter," and told her that it was her faith (in Him) that had healed her, and to "go in peace" (v. 48b).

6. What message came to Jairus as Jesus was talking with the woman He had healed? (Luke 8:49)

While Jesus was still talking to the Woman, someone from Jairus' house came to him and told him not to bother asking Jesus to come to the house because Jairus' daughter had died. Today, Believers often rush God to act on our behalf, or we grumble to Him when we feel that His timing is off somehow. I think we're all guilty of sometimes attributing our humanness to God. By this, I mean that we forget that God doesn't operate on our time or in our understanding. ["For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'" (Isaiah 55:8-9).] In fact, time wasn't created for Him, but for us-as He existed before time came to be and will exist forever after time ends. So, the fact that Jairus' daughter had already died wasn't even an impediment for Jesus. Actually, it was an opportunity for Jairus' faith to be exercised, and the faith of those who witnessed what was about to happen. God still uses obstructions and tragedies in our lives to cause our faith in Him to get a work out. You name it; God is much bigger than any adversity that you or I can ever think about experiencing! There is nothing that we could ever do that would be so bad that God would not forgive us for. Even those unmentionables that we might find ourselves caught up in, are not off limits for God. He's a God of forgiveness, of healing, of restoration. Remember that He is able.

7. What were Jesus' words to Jairus upon hearing this bad news? (Luke 8:49-50)

Jesus overheard the messenger's *bad news* to Jairus and turned to Jairus and told him not to be afraid, but to only believe and his daughter would be "made well" (v. 50). Upon hearing these words, no doubt Jairus' faith was being tested like never before. But, think about it. When we are at our lowest lows and have nowhere to turn and no one to turn to, it is then that we should turn all of our attention and trust to God. What do we have to lose? What more *bad news* could Jairus have heard at this point to further pierce his heart? The next time you are going through, and find yourself flat on your face, heart torn, disappointed, unloved, misunderstood, and with nowhere to run, I dare you to spiritually pour yourself at Jesus' feet. He knows what you're going through anyway, but talk to him like you'd talk to a friend. Speak honestly and openly. If you are sincere, you will begin to feel the warmth of His love around you. When you're at your lowest is when you can be the closest to God. Like Jairus, believe. Stand on the promises of God. He won't ever let you down.

8. Over what two areas did Jesus demonstrate His authority here?

Jesus had demonstrated His authority over disease earlier with the Woman, and now over death with Jairus' daughter. And, He's able to demonstrate His authority in our lives in any manner that He sees fit. Countless examples are given in the Bible

where God controlled the earth, sun, water, clouds, wind, fire, animals, armies, kings, etc. The Creator is in *total* authority of His creation. Rejoice in knowing this. Hallelujah!

9. How did the people respond when Jesus said the girl was asleep? (Luke 8:51-53)

The people "ridiculed" Jesus' statement that Jairus' daughter was "not dead, but sleeping" (v. 52) because they possibly were professional mourners and being so, knew beyond a shadow of doubt that the girl had died. They laughed at Jesus' ignorance of the severity of the situation. But, Jesus used the term *sleep* to mean a temporary condition. Jesus had also referred to His *friend* Lazarus' death as a state of *sleeping* (see John 11:11-14), and we remember what happened to Lazarus after Jesus' call for him to "come forth" (11:43), don't we? Jairus' heart must have leaped with joy and hope all over again, though, when Jesus said that his daughter was asleep.

10. What events took place after the people were put outside? (Luke 8:54-56)

After the people's ridicule and laughter at Jesus' suggestion that Jairus' daughter simply slept, Jesus proceeded to usher them out of the house. In doing this, they missed a first-hand opportunity to see Him perform a miracle. He took the girl by the hand and said, "Little girl, arise" (v. 54). Her spirit-which had departed her body when she died-returned and she immediately arose. Jesus then said that they should give the girl food to eat-probably because of her hunger after being so ill.

And, as "astonished" as they were, Jesus instructed Jairus and his wife to "tell no one what (has) happened" (v. 56). Jesus did not want to be known for His miracles alone, which is probably why He told the parents not to tell people about what had happened. He had a message of salvation for the Jews, but He knew they would be distracted from the message by the things He could do to benefit him; thus, He preferred not to publicize this miracle.

CONCLUSION

This lesson shows us how Jesus intervenes in hopeless situations. He offers us hope and healing, and we are called to trust Him-even when things seem impossible.

PRACTICAL POINTS

1. Our needs should drive us continually to Jesus (Luke 8:40-42)
2. The Lord knows and cares for each one of us (vv. 43-45)
3. Faith in the Lord is well placed and will always be rewarded (vv. 46-48)
4. Faith is a powerful antidote for fear (vv. 49-50)
5. In Christ one can find hope in any situation (vv. 51-52)
6. The faithless forfeit the right to see God's works (vv. 53-54)
7. The Lord is greater than any problem we might face (vv. 55-56)

PRAYER

Father God, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we thank you for this lesson's reminder that You are bigger than any problem that we could ever face. We're grateful that we have identified ourselves as Your beloved children, and that You care so much about what happens in our lives. Forgive us for our sins. When life becomes unbearable, may we remember to call on You first before going to anyone else for help; knowing that we can "look to You, Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2a). May we remember that You react to our faith in You. We love You, Lord, and praise You in all of Your sovereignty. What a mighty God we serve! May we remember how you healed the Woman with an issue of blood, and how you gave life again to Jairus' daughter. And in all of our hope for healing, may we remember that You are *able* to do the impossible in any situation. Thank You for salvation from the wrath of sin through the atoning death, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ-our Redeemer. In the powerful Name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Subject: "Extending Our Love"

Text: Luke 10:25-37

Golden Text: Luke 10:27

Time: A.D. 29

Place: Judea

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

Kimbley Y. Baker-Richardson

Kimbley@jesusisall.com