

Luke 8:40-56

Outline for Congregation

June 13, 2010

Title: Desperate Hope in the Power of Jesus

Jesus manifests the power of God over sickness and death and we are called to respond with faith – Jesus is the resting place for our desperate hopes.

Desperate Hope In the Healer and Restorer (vv43-48)

- A woman, sick for 12 years, having spent all she had with hopes of being healed
- This “unclean” woman secretly pursues Jesus in the crowd hoping to touch him and depart unnoticed, but healed – Jesus sends her back healed and publicly declares her well – “go in peace”

Desperate Hope In the One With The Power To Give Life (vv41-42, 49-56)

- A synagogue ruler whose only daughter is seriously ill begs Jesus, his only hope in this situation, to come to his house
- News comes the girl has died – there was hope Jesus could heal the sick, but was there any expectation he could raise the dead?
- Jesus’ words for us to trust him patiently in our tragedies: “do not fear, only believe”

Questions for Reflection

1. In Luke 8:22-56 Jesus we see that Jesus has power over nature (in calming the storm), over the spiritual world (in casting out demons), and over sickness (woman with discharge of blood) and death (Jairus’ daughter). If we assume these events really happened (as the church does), what are the implications? What does this say about who Jesus is? What does this say about what we should do with our lives in light of this information?
2. Jairus and the woman who approaches Jesus in the crowd both come to Jesus in desperate situations. What areas in your life are you overwhelmed, desperate, or feeling like you will never find help? What does it look like to seek Jesus today, when he is not walking past us as he did in the days that Luke records for us?
3. God doesn’t always heal when we ask for it, and we don’t expect the dead to be raised just after they have died. What does it look like to trust God with patience

when things are not going as you hope? Do these stories help you to maintain faith? Is there a lesson for you in these stories even if God isn't working exactly the same way in your life?

4. Luke's Gospel climaxes with Jesus suffering and dying, and ending his life with the words "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Jesus trusted his Father, and his Father was faithful to raise him from the dead (Luke 24). What can we learn about Jesus from this? What can we learn about how we should follow him? What can we learn to guide us as we face suffering in this life?