

A Study in Luke

Week Fourteen

Luke 8:40-9:11

Day One

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.

vs. 40&41 – Jesus went right from meeting the man with a legion of demons back to where the crowds were expecting him. No sooner did He arrive when the leader of the synagogue came and made a plea for his only daughter's life. This father was desperate and fell at Jesus' feet. All parents need to have the same concern for their children, even if they are healthy, for if your child doesn't know the Lord, they are dying, no matter how alive they may appear. And even if you don't have children, you need to be concerned for the next generation and their relationship with God. Do you have any young people for whom you pray regularly?

v. 42 – I have been in a pressing crowd and it is a frightening thing. In the last study, we saw Jesus sleeping during a storm on the lake. Now we see Him calmly passing through an anxious crowd that had assembled to see and receive something from Him. Jesus didn't have any bodyguards; He was accessible and touchable by the people. Even though the world is a crazy place, I try to stay accessible to the people among whom I am ministering wherever I go. I don't draw the needy crowds that Jesus did, but I try to apply the same principle to walk among the people.

Day Two

43 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, 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."

v. 43 – Our Lord Jesus was a magnificent man. He was never too busy to meet a need and never ran out of power or grace. He was a wonderful, kind teacher who also had a sense of humor. If you want a ministry model to follow, follow Jesus. And no situation was too difficult or challenging for Him. As He was on the way to heal the daughter of the synagogue leader, a woman with a 12-year medical condition needed His help too.

v. 44 – This woman came up behind Jesus so that He could not see her and touched the edge of His cloak. Remember that the crowd is crushing Him at this point and she somehow made it through that mass of humanity to touch Jesus. This is the second desperate person in these few verses, the first being the sick girl's father. It seems that you must be a bit desperate to get to Jesus and catch His attention. How desperate are you to see your need met? How desperately are you seeking God for an answer, your purpose or any other need that you may have?

The woman fought through the crowd, touched Jesus and her bleeding stopped. I wonder how she knew? She couldn't do an inspection in that public place. I suppose that she felt something. But when she touched Jesus, she knew she was healed.

There were a lot of people touching Jesus in that crowd, just like there are a lot of people touching Him today. But they touch Jesus and their lives aren't changed. They touch Him out of curiosity, to have an experience, or to because others in the crowd are touching Him, too. But this woman touched Him with a need in faith and she was healed. Jesus didn't lay hands on her, or anoint her with oil. The only thing she had to do was touch Him in faith. Is there a lesson in there for you somewhere?

v. 45 – Jesus was conscious of the reality around Him. He knew what was in people's hearts, recognized the traps they laid for Him in their questions, and sensed the real needs of people. Here His awareness alerted Him that someone had touched Him in faith. God is never too busy or distracted to hear your cry for help. I have met some people who act like their prayers are bothering God, taking Him away from someone else that He needs to be doing. That isn't so. God desires that you seek Him. If all His children seek Him at once, it isn't too much for Him to handle. Do you sometimes act like you're bothering God when you pray?

Good old Peter rebuked the Lord for the seemingly silly question, "Who touched me?" But everyone was denying that they had been the "touch-er" and the woman was too embarrassed to come forward. But Jesus knew and kept looking around to see who it was.

v. 46 – God can always distinguish between faith and any other motive. The power flowed from Jesus because of the woman's faith; it was the conduit through which her healing flowed. I have often said that faith is the currency with which we make transactions with God. It is our means of doing heavenly business. And perhaps you remember two of my favorite verses:

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6).

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:17).

Do you have faith? If so, what you are doing with it? What actions are you taking to prove that you have faith?

Day Three

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. 48 Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace." 49 While 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." 50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

v. 47 – The woman saw that Jesus knew and wasn't going to move on until the "guilty" party was identified. So she came trembling and gave her testimony. I'm not sure why Jesus wanted her to identify herself. Perhaps He wanted the crowd to know, but I think it was more for her sake. He wanted her to seal her healing with a confession that she was healed and this condition was gone forever, never to return. It is always important to tell others of what God has done for you. Do you have a testimony that you need to share with someone today or in your church this Sunday?

v. 48 – Jesus didn't say that **He** had healed the woman. He was clear that her **faith** had healed her. She had taken from Jesus what was available to anyone through faith. This tells me that some of the things I don't have are because I lack the faith to get them.

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "**According to your faith will it be done to you**" (Matthew 9:27-30).

Do not make a doctrine out of this lesson, saying that anyone who isn't healed doesn't have faith. But there are **some** people who aren't healed because they lack faith. I hope you aren't one of them.

v. 49 – The word now came that the sick girl had died. I wonder if the father resented the intrusion of this woman, seeing the delay to his home as the difference between his daughter's recovery and her death. But Jesus was simply "framing" his next act. If He could heal a woman with a twelve-year bleeding problem, He could raise a dead girl. But of course the crowds didn't expect this; sickness is one thing, death is quite another.

v. 50 – Wow! What powerful words! "Don't be afraid, but only believe!" How often I have been afraid, choosing to walk in my fear rather than my faith. In fact, I am facing how much of my adult life I have lived in fear and doubt, yielding to worry, anxiety, depression and cynicism. I have been so in touch with "the facts"—walking by sight—that I totally lost contact with God—walking by faith.

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal (2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

What are you fixing your eyes on today? Are you afraid? Do you lack trust? These things are feelings; they are decisions. Jesus ordered the father not to be afraid and to believe. He is commanding you to do the same things.

Day Four

51 When 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. 52 Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." 53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. 54 But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" 55 Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

v. 51 – Jesus handpicked His audience for what He was about to do. I have prayed, perhaps selfishly, “Lord, take me with You.” I want to know the secrets of God; I want to see what He is doing.

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law (Deuteronomy 29:29).

Can God trust you with His secrets? Can He choose you to go with Him when He needs faith to get something done? I hope so.

v. 52 – The people were already mourning but Jesus made what to them was an outlandish statement: “The girl is only sleeping.” Jesus hadn’t even seen the girl and He declared that she wasn’t dead. The people had seen her and they knew she was dead. There is a song where the song leader says, “Whose report will you believe?” And the people respond: “We shall believe the report of the Lord?”

Whose report will you believe? Will you believe what you see or what God tells you? Will you trust your own senses or God’s word?

v. 53 – They laughed at Jesus. My feelings get hurt when someone laughs at me. This reminds me of the description of Jesus found in Isaiah 53:1-7:

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Go to Isaiah 53 and read the rest of the chapter. Then renew your commitment to do the will of God, no matter what price you have to pay, following in the footsteps of Jesus.

v. 54 – Jesus ignored their laughter and took the girl by the hand, bringing her back to life. This is similar to what Jesus did in Luke 7:12 when he raised the only son of the widow. Jesus had urged her father to have faith and I must assume that the father did have faith, otherwise he would not have come to get Jesus. But when he came he had faith for healing, not for resurrection. Now his faith was rewarded in a way that he hadn't even considered.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).

What do you have faith for God to do? Whatever it is, God is able to do more according to the power that is working in you. Is there power working in you for this?

vs. 55&56 – Jesus ordered the little girl's spirit to return; then He ordered them to give her something to eat; finally, He ordered that they tell no one. Do you get the idea that Jesus was in charge, that He expected His commands to be followed? I hope you get that impression, for Jesus doesn't issue options but rather commands. He expects those commands to be followed. Is there anything that God is commanding you to do with which you are delaying?

Day Five

9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. 3 He told them: "Take nothing for the journey-no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. 4 Whatever house

you enter, stay there until you leave that town. 5 If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." 6 So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.

vs. 1 & 2 – Now that the Twelve had seen Jesus doing so much, He now sent them out to do it themselves. Many people have been around a church for many years, but they haven't applied what they have seen and learned. Jesus sent the Twelve out on a short-term missions trip to the surrounding areas. Jesus defined their mission to preach and heal and empowered them to do so. Is there anyplace that Jesus wants to send you? Are you applying what you learn for the benefit of other people? Is there someplace in your heart where you would like to go and minister to the people? Why not set a time today when you will go.

v. 3 – The Lord sent them out without provisions or luggage! He simply ordered them to trust in God's provision. Help me, Lord! I still don't trust you. I am writing this while in Kenya, East Africa and I can barely pick up my heavy suitcases. Jesus told the Twelve to go out with nothing and trust the Lord.

v. 4 – Jesus urged the team to stay in one place while in a town. Perhaps that was so they could minimize the impact and trouble on the host village. Or maybe it would enable them to build a strong relationship with the host families. But Jesus urged the Twelve to be among the people and not be aloof.

v. 5 – If a village rejected the apostles' mission, they weren't to carry the dust of that village to the next place they were going. When you do ministry, you need a short memory so that you don't remember your failures or allow them to affect your next assignment. Jesus said, "If it doesn't go well, then shake off the dust and any remnant and move on." That is a good philosophy to have in ministry.

v. 6 – The Twelve did what Jesus had directed them to do: They preached and healed everywhere. Jesus will empower you to do what He directs you to do. Ministry isn't about you, but about Him and His ability to equip you to carry out His work. Too many people don't go because they say, "I don't have anything to give." They are correct. We never have anything to give, but God gives us things to give. And often we get the things we need in ministry as we go and obey God.

If you are sitting in your home or office, saying, "I don't have the power to minister, therefore I can't go where Jesus wants me to go," you are partially correct. You don't have the power now; that is a correct statement. But you are wrong that you cannot go. God will empower you as you go to do what it is that you must do. It's not about you; it's about Him. Obey Him and watch Him give you what you need to do His will, wherever that may be. I think that today you may need to start planning your next and maybe even your first missions trip.

Day Six

7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was going on. And he was perplexed, because some were saying that John had been raised from the dead, 8 others that Elijah had appeared, and still others that one of the prophets of long ago had come back to life. 9 But Herod said, "I beheaded John. Who, then, is this I hear such things about?" And he tried to see him.

v. 7 – I find these few verses to be out of place, some believing that they were not written by Luke but were added to a later manuscript. It seems that Jesus' ministry touched everyone, both high and low. Even though Herod never saw Jesus in action, he heard about what Jesus was doing. Herod's guilty conscience bothered him, for he had killed John the Baptist for no good reason.

v. 8 – There were plenty of rumors concerning who Jesus was, just as the disciples had reported in Matthew 16:13 when Jesus asked them, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" There were silly superstitions and outlandish theories that kept people from addressing the truth of who Jesus really was. Don't ever listen to rumors. It is harder work to find the truth, but well worth the effort.

I have to believe the kingdom of darkness helped circulate some of those rumors. If someone's mind could be satisfied with these silly rumors, then that person would not seek the truth about Jesus. So the devil had his public relations department come up with some false interpretations to keep people occupied and satisfied that they already knew the truth.

There are still plenty of silly notions around about who Jesus is. It is our job to preach the truth and dispel the rumors for people who want to know.

v. 9 – Herod would not see Jesus until Pilate sent Jesus to him right before the crucifixion. At that time, Jesus had nothing to say to him and Herod was disappointed, thinking that Jesus would put on a healing or miracle "show" for him. Little did Herod know that, while he was trying to see God, God wasn't trying to see him. Perhaps John's death had sealed Herod's sentence with God, who had reached the end of His almost endless patience and mercy where Herod and his family were concerned.

Day Seven

10 When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, 11 but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.

v. 10 – The apostles returned from their short-term missions trip and gave Jesus a report of all that they had done. I try to give God a report of what I've done, to see if there was

anything I could have done better. But mostly I give Him a report to thank Him for His help as I minister. I want to stay conscious of the fact that whatever I do is because the Lord has empowered me to do it. It isn't because of me; it's because of Him. Yes, I have worked hard to be the best minister and worker that I can be. But at the end of the day, if Jesus doesn't help me, I will fall flat on my face.

Jesus also knew that there needed to be some "down time" after their successful mission. He took them off to be by themselves. I know that I don't have enough "down times" or times of silence where I can be alone with God. Perhaps today you need to spend a few minutes with Jesus, going over the recent events in your life.

v. 11 – Jesus was a public figure and the crowds figured out where He was going and spread the word. Jesus down time turned into another ministry time. I try not to be rigid in my scheduling, something that is easy for me to do. I must be open to the inevitable ministry interruptions that arise due to the unpredictable nature of human need. Jesus wasn't uptight about time. Even though He had plans already to be with His ministry team, He welcomed the crowds gladly and engaged in His two predominant activities: He taught and healed.

Jesus taught them about the kingdom of God. I had a seminary professor who would substitute the word "government" for "kingdom," calling it the "government of God." God has a government and we are under its authority. Jesus is the head of the government and He sets the rules, laws and agenda. It is an interesting study to look up all the references to "kingdom" in the four gospels to see what Jesus had to say. If you are looking for a study project, maybe you should consider that.

Jesus modeled what He taught. He had other plans, but God's kingdom or government intervened and He now had a crowd to teach. He gladly surrendered His plans for the Father's plans, and healed and taught.

Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these. For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him" (John 5:19-23).

Jesus was under God's authority and left us an example to follow. Are you in right relationship with the kingdom, the government of God? If not, I urge you to obey and do what the Father is showing you to do.