

**THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE // PART 8 (Ch. 8)**

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**SERMON NOTES:**

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

~Luke 8:1-3

How does Jesus breakdown social norms with his ministry?

**Notes:**

What are some of the role's society has given you?

**Notes:**

Now there was a woman who had been suffering from *hemorrhages* for twelve years; and though *she had spent all she had on physicians*,<sup>[a]</sup> no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. ... When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her,

*"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."*

~Luke 8:43-48

If a woman has a discharge of blood for many days, not at the time of her impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond the time of her impurity, all the days of the discharge she shall continue in uncleanness; as in the days of her impurity, she shall be unclean. Every bed on which she lies during all the days of her discharge shall be treated as the bed of her impurity; and everything on which she sits shall be unclean, as in the uncleanness of her impurity. *Whoever touches these things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes, and bathe in water, and be unclean until the evening.*

~Leviticus 15:25-27

*Those who touch the dead body of any human being shall be unclean seven days.* They shall purify themselves with the water on the third day and on the seventh day, and so be clean; but if they do not purify themselves on the third day and on the seventh day, they will not become clean.

~Numbers 19:11-12

What religious norms did Jesus break by being in contact with the bleeding woman and the dead girl?

**Notes:**

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Have you ever had a time in your life that you felt unclean or unworthy of God's grace? Have you ever felt like you were not good enough to go to church or be around "religious" people?

**Notes:**

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Jesus touching the bleeding woman and the dead girl does not make him unclean – just the opposite – to come in contact with the living God is to become well. Jesus (and His church) is the one we should run to, not from, when we are unclean and unwell.

Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." He replied, *"My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."*

~Luke 8:19-21

What role do you play in your family? What expectations have you had placed on you, or what expectation have you placed on others, that may need to be broken apart?

**Notes:**

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“No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.

~Luke 8:16

Still other seed fell on *good soil*.  
It came up and yielded a crop,  
*a hundred times more than was sown.*”

~Luke 8:8

And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

~Luke 8:15

Jesus dashes all unhealthy and arbitrary expectations that society places on you. He frees you from being both prisoner and prison guard and calls you, and those all around you, Daughter and Son. Once he frees you, what does he expect of you? What does it mean for you to cling to this good word of God and patiently produce a huge harvest?

**Notes:**

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## SMALL GROUP RESOURCE PAGE

Each small group is different.  
Feel free to adjust and use what best fits your group.

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### WARM UP:

- What roles do we play in our culture?
- Where have you bought into an arbitrary role or stereotype that you need to break out of so that you can produce a harvest?

### ENGAGE:

- What was most impactful to you from this weekend's service?
- Read through Luke 8: 4-15

### APPLY:

- What does it look like for you to do as Jesus did in regard to touching the dead girl? What religious norms do you need to break out of to make someone else well?
- Who in your life would be willing to have a conversation about Jesus? Are you able to have that conversation without forcing your opinion? Are you capable of listening more than speaking?
- In what ways have you hidden your lamp under a clay jar?
- Who are you inviting to Alpha now or in the fall?

### PRAY:

- Spend some time individually before the Lord, seeking to hear what God is saying about what we are studying these days. Close with the prayer of Saint Francis for Peace (if you don't know it... Google it!).

### GOING DEEPER:

- Suggested resource – *Luke for Everyone* by N.T. Wright
- If you are not in a Small Group, there's at least one that needs you! Get started at [www.damascus.com/groups](http://www.damascus.com/groups)

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