

Resilient Faith: It's always too soon to quit
Luke 8:40-56

Where is your faith? What are you trusting in for hope and security? How you answer that question has enormous implications in this life and in eternity.

When the disciples woke Jesus up on a boat in a raging storm and said, *master don't you care that we are perishing?* Jesus rebuked the storm and immediately there was calm.

And then He asked His disciples, *where is your faith?* And in verse 25 Luke records. *“And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”*
Luke 8:25

Now that's a better question than, *master, don't you care that we are perishing?* The storm Jesus allowed the disciples to go through was designed not only to test their faith, but to demonstrate the authority of Jesus.

After calming the raging storm, Jesus led His disciples to the country of the Gerasenses to calm the storm in a man's life who was full of demons. By doing so He gave more incontrovertible proof of His person and power.

As Andrew shared with us: “This account serves as a powerful reminder that Jesus is the Sovereign Messiah,

the Lord of all who is restoring all things in and through His Kingdom.”

Now in our text this morning, Jesus continues to show His disciples that He’s not only sovereign over storms and demons, but also over sickness and death.

It’s important to note that when these events took place, they were not only orchestrated by Jesus to demonstrate who He was to His disciples at that time, but Luke wrote this gospel account to strengthen the faith of first century Christians a few years before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70AD.

Knowing the audience who first heard the gospel of Luke, is important in understanding its purpose and aim.

The believers who first read the gospel of Luke were facing fierce persecution. No doubt they were tempted to quit and needed to be reminded that Jesus was above the storms they were facing.

They needed the encouragement of knowing that Jesus is sovereign over suffering and is able to deliver us from the storm or through the storm. That even when things seem to go from bad to worse, Jesus is still in control and we can trust Him to fulfill His redemptive plans in and through our lives.

The takeaway for the first centuries believers wasn't that if we "BELIEVE" we will always experience health and wealth. Many of the first centuries Christians gave their lives for the cause of Christ. The takeaway was that no matter how bad things may seem, because we serve the resurrected Sovereign King of kings, we win in the end.

As one wise pastor said to a young discouraged pastor, because Jesus is Sovereign over all, it's always too soon to quit.

Main idea: Fruit-bearing disciples cultivate a resilient faith in the knowledge of Christ and are convinced that it's always too soon to quit.

To keep going for Christ we must keep growing in faith.

This morning we are going to examine five principles of a faith that won't quit, even when things seem to go from bad to worse.

1. The object of faith is God, so seek Him.

The first principle to developing a faith that won't quit is that **the object of faith is God, so seek Him**. Luke continues:

"Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.⁴¹ And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And

falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying.” Luke 8:40-42

Notice that a man named Jairus, a ruler in the Synagogue, had a twelve-year-old daughter, who was at the point of death. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him and pleaded with Him to come to his house to presumably heal his daughter. When Jesus heard his urgent and faith filled plea, He agreed to go with Him.

Let me ask you, who was the object of the ruler's faith? Jesus was clearly the object of His faith.

This principle that the object of genuine faith is God might seem like a basic concept to some of us. However, it's one that has been greatly distorted today.

As you heard me say before and I must continue to stress, there is a false teaching today called, **“Word of Faith.”** Those who embrace it erroneously believe that faith itself, not faith in Jesus, is a force.

Furthermore, they believe it's a force that we tap into with our words, whether positive or negative. Therefore, by our faith filled words, confessions, and declarations we create our own reality.

Beloved, this is not biblical faith. This is new age mysticism. Authentic faith is not faith in faith. It's not

believe it and you can achieve it. And it's not positive thinking.

Now positive thinking can be good and helpful. And faith may cause you to think positively. But positive thinking in and of itself is not biblical faith. **Faith is as good as its object** (Hebrews 11:6).

The faith that Jesus is advocating in our text is not faith in faith, or faith in our own words, but faith in His sovereignty and power. Therefore, if we are to grow in faith, we must know the object of faith, namely Jesus.

The more we grow in our knowledge of Him, the more our faith will increase. And it will be a faith that not only dreams big, but that is willing to lay down big dreams and trust God's WILL for our lives.

2. The origin of faith is the Word of God, so hear Him.

Secondly, The origin of faith is the Word of God, so hear Him. As Jesus was responding to a 911 call with Jairus to heal his daughter, we read beginning in verse 24:

“As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. 43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. 44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his

garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.” Luke 8:42-44

While Jesus was on an emergency call to heal the ruler’s twelve-year-old daughter, He encountered a woman with a touch of faith, who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years. Her touch of faith stopped Him in His tracks, and released His power to heal her.

Later, Jesus would tell her after she was healed,
“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”
Luke 8:48

Before we look more at how her faith led her to reach out to Jesus for healing, I want us to see where her faith came from.

You see, there was a time when she had lost faith in general. She had lost faith in the physicians she spent all her money on, but never got any better. Rather, her condition grew worse.

According to the law in Leviticus 15:25, her condition also made her ceremonially unclean, which meant that she could not go into the temple. In addition, anyone who touched her would also be ceremonially unclean.

Furthermore, if she was single, it’s also likely she lost hope that she would ever get married and have children. If she

was married, she may have been estranged from her family.

But this woman, who had lost hope that her condition would ever change, suddenly is filled with faith. Where did her faith come from?

We know that Jesus was clearly the object of her faith, but how did she come to believe that if she would but touch the fringe of His garment, she would be healed? Where did her faith, which Jesus commended her for, come from? In the parallel passage in Mark's gospel we read, "*She had heard the reports about Jesus...*" Mark 5:27

How does the Bible say faith comes? "*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*" Romans 10:17

Listen, this woman wasn't a theologian. She didn't know much about Jesus. But with the little that she knew from the reports she heard about Jesus, she exercised faith, and was made well. What's more, her faith grew stronger as she exercised it.

Notice that she went from an anonymous faith in Jesus, to publicly expressing her faith:

"And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" 46 But Jesus said, "Someone

touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.” 47 And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. 48 And he said to her” Luke 8:45-47

Notice that Jesus knew He had been touched in a special way because power was released from Him. Jesus knew why He was touched. So then why did He ask, who touched me?

I want to suggest to you that He asked to challenge the woman to go public with her faith, which was a deeper test of faith. He didn't want her faith in Him and what He did for her to remain a secret. He didn't want her to remain anonymous about her faith.

We also see that when He asked, who touched me, Peter responded: *“Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!”* (Luke 8:45b). The fact that Peter had no clue why Jesus asked that question, heightens the sense of Jesus' sovereignty over the events.

You know, people around us won't always understand what Jesus might be doing in our lives, especially when it involves major faith decisions. They might even discourage us.

We will miss out on what God wants to do in and through our lives when we go along with popular opinion rather than yielding to the will of God for our lives.

Peter was unaware that Jesus wasn't talking to him. He was talking to the woman with the touch of faith who was about to sneak away without anyone knowing what Jesus did for her. But after hearing JESUS' WORDS, *she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed.*"

And as the gospel of Mark puts it: *she told him the whole truth.*

It's very possible that there's someone here this morning that because you've responded to God's word in faith, He's working in your life. Perhaps He's healing you from a deep sin issue or other deep hurts that has kept you bound, depressed or socially isolated.

However, God wants to do more healing in and through you. And to experience it, He wants you to go public. He wants you to tell the **whole truth**.

Perhaps He wants you to come out of hiding so that someone else can speak additional words of healing into your life. Or perhaps He wants you to go public so that others will hear the reports about what God has done in

you, and receive the spark of faith that they need to come to Jesus.

Notice also that because she exercised faith based on the little that she knew about Jesus, she now hears from Jesus himself. And after responding in faith to Jesus' question, which was meant to draw her out of her anonymity, He again speaks to her. He speaks words that reveal a powerful truth that is more precious than the healing itself.

Jesus declared to her: *“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.”* Luke 8:48

Do you know that this is the only recorded instance where Jesus addresses a woman as daughter? This woman, who trusted Him enough to publicly confess the whole truth about her life, left her encounter with Him knowing more than the fact that she was healed. She left knowing that she was made whole from the inside out.

She left her faith encounter with Jesus knowing that she was a daughter of the King of kings and Lord of lords. She left her encounter with Jesus knowing that despite what others thought about her, she was loved by Him, she belonged to Him, and she never had to feel alone again.

Do you want to grow in faith—faith that will bring you out of the shadows of shame to shine for Jesus? Do you want a faith that won't be stopped by the ignorant opinions of the

crowd? Do you desire a faith that will give you a grit that won't quit? Remember, the origin of faith is the Word of God, so hear Him. Get to know Him and WHO you are in Jesus through His Word.

3. The obstacles of faith are often people, so ignore them or don't give in to them.

The third principle to know about faith that won't quit is that: The obstacles of faith are often people, so ignore them. The woman, who was made whole through her faith in Jesus, could have allowed obstacles to keep her from coming to Him.

Again, one of those obstacles was the crowd of people. And what made the crowd an obstacle was more than simply her having to get around them to get to Jesus.

It's very likely that she had to overcome the fear that the crowd would recognize her as the unclean woman and drive her away. Moreover, Jairus, who earnestly pleaded with Jesus to heal his daughter, may have also viewed the crowd as an obstacle.

Remember that when Jesus stopped to minister healing to the woman with the hemorrhage, He was on a 911 call to Jairus' home to heal his daughter. I wonder what Jairus thought when Jesus decided to stop, and ask, "*who touched me?*"

Maybe he was thinking, now is not the time Jesus. Why are you concerning yourself with who touched you? If we don't get to my daughter in time, she's going to die.

But what may have seemed to Jairus as an obstacle, (or a delay) was actually a faith building moment that would also prepare him for the bad news he was about to hear.

Notice what happened next: *“While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.”* 50 *But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.”* Luke 8:49-56

Jairus, who was probably losing heart because Jesus was being delayed, now hears more discouraging news. People who he knew, who were close to the situation, said to Jairus, “Your daughter is dead. Don't bother Jesus any longer.”

Brothers and sisters, there will be times when you decide to trust Jesus to do great and mighty things in and through your life, and you will not always have the support of others, including other believers.

There will be people who can encourage your faith and who can give you good counsel. But there will be others, who because of their unbelief, chronic skepticism, or critical spirit, will discourage you. Sometimes you will have to go at it alone, and when you do so in faith you will

discover that you're never alone. Jesus stands with us when we stand with him.

Now before we look at how Jesus encouraged Jairus, whose faith was beginning to waver thanks to his friends, let me give you a fourth principle about cultivating a faith that knows it's always too soon to quit:

4. The objective of faith is the will of God, so yield to Him.

How many of you know that although the news that Jairus' daughter had died caught him by surprise, it didn't catch Jesus by surprise? Jesus was in charge and in control. And all who were yielded to His will and authority got a front row seat to what He was planning all along.

What happened when they finally arrived at Jairus' house: *“And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. 52 And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, “Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.” 53 And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. Luke 8:52-53*

Notice how Jesus authoritatively takes control of what's going on in Jairus' home. What was going on? There was all kinds of drama going on, which didn't stop when Jesus arrived on the scene. And not only did the drama continue, but when Jesus declared that the girl was not dead, but

sleeping because He was about to raise her from the dead, they laughed at Him.

I want to suggest to you that Jairus' acquaintances, who earlier were calling Jesus teacher, were never yielded to the authority of Jesus. They followed Him up to a point. He was their teacher until He did not line up with how they viewed things. And because their level of faith only followed Jesus to a certain point, they missed being in the room with Jesus when He raised the 12-year-old girl from the dead.

But those with a faith that won't quit—that would say to the Lord, even when it's hard, or when you can't understand, "not my will but your will be done" got a front row seat to witness Christ's resurrection power.

How many of you know that when we submit and trust Christ's will for our lives and keep on keeping on even when it's not easy, we will have no regrets? And not only will we have no regrets, we will know in the end that it was worth it all.

5. The opportunities of faith are endless, so keep on believing.

Now the final principle that we can glean from our text about cultivating a faith that believes that it's always too soon to quit is: **The opportunities of faith are endless, so keep on believing.**

Remember, thanks to his friends, who advised him not to bother Jesus because his daughter was already dead, Jairus' faith began to waver. Knowing this, Jesus encourages Jairus to keep going by saying to Him,

“Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.” Luke 8:50

In other words, He's telling Him, don't stop believing. Don't stop believing in what? He's **NOT** telling him, don't stop believing in what YOU wanted me to do, how YOU wanted me to do it, and when YOU wanted me to do it. He's **NOT** telling Him to believe that his daughter was never sick, or to not claim the sickness.

He's telling Him, no matter how daunting the task or how big the mountain, don't stop believing in ME, don't stop trusting that MY will, and MY timing is better than YOUR will and YOUR timing.

So, after hearing Jesus say, *Do not fear, only believe*, Jairus yielded in faith to the will and authority of Jesus and kept following Him.

Now notice that after they arrived at the house, Jesus, according to Mark's gospel account, put out all the naysayers and mockers, except for three of His disciples and the girl's parents, and went into the house. Luke records:

“But taking her by the hand he called, saying, “Child, arise.” 55 And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. 56 And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.” Luke 8:54-56

Because Jairus took Jesus at His word, and continued to believe even when things seemed to go from bad to worse, He experienced Jesus doing more than he could ever have dreamed or imagined. He learned that obstacles are opportunities for Jesus to display His greater glory and resurrection power.

Why did Jesus charge the girl’s parents to tell no one what happened? We can’t be certain, but one reason could be that many followed Jesus for the miracles that He performed not for the message that He preached. If the many that followed Jesus would have known that He raised the girl from the dead, the larger crowds seeking a miracle could have hindered others from receiving His word. So only those who responded in faith to His message, were entrusted with seeing some of His great miracles. A faith that can’t be tested can’t be trusted.

Beloved, there will be times when you will hear from God and will in faith set out to do what He has called you to do. He may be leading you into full time ministry, or to volunteer to serve in the church or to leave a career to stay home with the kids.

However, don't be surprised when after you set out to do what God calls you to do, you encounter opposition and obstacles that will test your faith. When this happens, you will begin to wonder if you made the right choice. You may even contemplate giving up.

Maybe God has given you the faith to pray for a wayward child, your marriage, or a job situation, and rather than things getting better, they seem to be getting worse. If that's you this morning, you need to know that experiencing obstacles or opposition doesn't mean you didn't hear from God.

But what it does mean is that you need to seek Him, continue to hear from Him, yield to His will, ignore the naysayers, and trust that obstacles are opportunities for Jesus to display His glory in your life.

Although it's not always been easy being in full time ministry and there's been times when I even thought about quitting, the greatest joys of my life have been seeing first-hand the resurrection power of Jesus transforming the lives of people He has given me the privilege to serve.

I also know that if I had not made certain faith decisions, if I had gone with my plans for security rather than God's plans for ministry, not only would I have missed seeing God do some incredible things, I wouldn't be here today.

Conclusion

Beloved, Jesus, who demonstrated that He has resurrection power and ultimate authority also demonstrated that He loves you when He laid down His life to save you from your sin.

So, no matter what mountain your facing, and whether it moves or not when you want Him to move it, you have every reason to trust Him. Do not fear, only believe. It's always too soon to quit.