

TOUCHING FAITH | LUKE 8:40-56 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 11/9/2025

I. Faith of a Desperate Father (40-42) | II. Faith of a Desperate Woman (43-48) | III. Fear of a Desperate Father (40-42) | IV. Faithfulness/Empathetic Savior

INTRO: **Continuing in Luke chapter 8**, we again find Jesus with His disciples, traveling from town to town, spreading the good news of the gospel and **always looking for genuine faith!** – In this final section, Jesus finds **Two Contrasting Stories** which provided us with lessons about **TOUCHING FAITH.**

I. FAITH OF A DESPERATE FATHER (40-42) – **READ:** *Jesus is returning from Gadara*, where He had delivered a demon-possessed man. He was rejected because many pigs had been destroyed!

- As He arrived (40), multitudes were waiting for Him at the Capernaum shoreline (*contrast*)
- Luke explains that a *Certain Man* was also in the crowd... *a Desperate Man* who especially needed *the Healing Touch of Jesus* (cf. Mark 5:23b) – *Who was this man? Why so desperate?*

A. His Person (41a) – His name is *JAIRUS laeiro* = *whom God enlightens*. – The synoptics tell us that he was *a ruler of the synagogue* in Capernaum. – The same synagogue built by the good Centurion (Luke 7:5), which is *the same as the one* where Jesus cast out an unclean spirit (Luke 4:31-33).

1. As *Ruler*, *Jairus* was responsible for synagogue operations; i.e., caring for the building, scheduling teaching, etc. (Matt 9:18; Mark 5:38)
2. He was a *Prominent Man*, with a lofty position in society, he had wealth, a wife, and an only daughter, which he loved dearly. He was blessed... i.e., *Until tragedy struck!* ...

B. His Problem (42) – He had *a very sick 12 year old daughter* who was **at the brink of death!** **P/A** – *Even prominent people have problems in life, none are exempt!* (What do you do when tragedy strikes?)

C. His Plea (41b) – *He begged Jesus* to come and heal his 12 year old daughter. – **Nothing mattered more!** – Luke tells us that *he fell down*, (Matt 9:18) tells us that he did so reverently... *he Worshiped*.

- *Jairus' coming to Jesus openly with his request* was **a bold declaration of faith!**
- Jesus perceived *Jairus' request* as **"a Faith Plea."** – (Mark 5:23), communicates that *Jairus believed that Jesus could heal his daughter by the very touch of His hands* ... he said, **"She will live!"**

D. The Pause (42b) – Jesus was willing to go to *Jairus' home*, but **Two Entities postponed their visit** to the 12 year old girl: *A Multitude of People* and *an Unknown Woman* who was a societal outcast.

- This **PAUSE...** was also the **CAUSE** of a great deal of **Anxiety** for *Jairus*, who just wanted to get back home so Jesus could heal his dying daughter.

P/A – Have you even needed Jesus to do a work in your life, but only experienced roadblocks and delays? **WHY?** ... **Patience is needed!** (tt. James 1:2-4) – **PATIENCE actually leads to PERFECTION!** ...

II. FAITH OF A DESPERATE WOMAN (43-48) – **READ (43-45):** *Who was this woman?*

A. Her Person (43a) – She was a poor, unnamed woman, who suddenly appeared from the crowd. – She **sought Jesus** because she too was in a desperate situation! (Her actions appear *Determined and Direct!*)

B. Her Problem (43b) – *Flow of Blood!* – *She was afflicted with Constant Hemorrhaging for 12 years!* – This condition caused many complications in her life. "Physically," she was anemic, "without energy," which would have caused her much emotional stress. – "Ceremonially" she would've been "considered unclean" according to (Lev 15:19-27). – "Socially," she would have been unwanted by "all...her family," and even from synagogue! – And "Financially," we are told...

...that she spent all her livelihood "on Physicians," who were **UNABLE** to heal her condition. (Only Luke mentions that her condition was incurable)

1. What a contrast between HER and the 12 year-old girl:

The Woman	The Child
12 years suffering	12 years old
Chronic illness	Sudden illness
Financially poor	Financially affluent

2. Yet both were in desperate need of Jesus' healing Touch! – While the father desperately sought healing for the daughter, this woman had to seek healing for herself! **She had No One!**

C. Her Persistence (44) – She came to Jesus! – Mark's account provides greater detail giving her actual thoughts: "When she heard about Jesus, she came behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, 'if only I may touch his clothes, I shall be made well.'" (Mark 5:27-28) Her desire was to be healed!

1. She was At Her Wits End, trying everything in life and was still left broke, broken, and by herself!

2. She Heard that Jesus was a healer, so with all the energy she had left she made the decision to "reach out to Jesus!" – **This is touching faith!** (Some say that this is using Jesus is the last resort... maybe so, nevertheless, she still came to Jesus in faith!) – **What matters most is that you come!** – (John 6:37) All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

- She believed that Indirect Contact with Jesus's garment would cure her incurable condition. *Wow!*
- Her faith is comparable to that of the Centurion (Luke 7:6-7), who said "all You need to do is say the word and my servant will be healed"

3. She Touched the "hem of his garment." – **Why the woman touched ONLY this part of His garment is UNCLEAR** but combined with her approach; coming from behind, may indicate her sense of unworthiness or even secrecy!

- Regardless of the multitudes and their reasons for being near Jesus... **She Expressed Faith in Action!**
- And her reach was a Touch of Faith! – Her reach touched more than just the outer hem of Jesus' garment... it touched the Mind and Heart of Jesus Christ.

4. When she did so, Her Flow immediately stopped! – (Mark 5:29) says, Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

- For 12 long years this woman was Destitute, Discouraged, and Desperate, until she reached out to Jesus! – **Her decision would change her life forever!**

P/A – When we reach out to Jesus with Touching Faith, expect something to happen! – What happens next for this woman was a Challenge to Come Public with Her Faith! – *All brought on by...*

D. Jesus' Perception (45-46) – **READ: When the women Touched Jesus,** He Publicly Cried Out, **Who touched me?** – The disciples (*Peter*) wrote it off to the crowd. – But Jesus disregarded his assumptions because Power had gone out of Him (46). – He then discloses that **His Supernatural Ability to Minister** was **Accessed** by a **TOUCH OF FAITH!** – So, He asked **Who touched me?** – Was it because He really didn't know who? **Of course not!** – **Jesus knew who touched Him!** – But **He wanted the woman to Declare Publicly what He did for her secretly and supernaturally!**

1. Three Reasons WHY: First, for the Glory of God. **Second,** for Her Own Development, and **Thirdly,** it was important for Others! **For others to know WHY you have faith in Jesus Christ!**

2. I also believe that **Jesus wanted Jairus to be strengthened by her declaration of faith**, for He knew what Jairus was about to hear about his daughter!

P/A – Likewise, many people around you need to hear your declaration of faith as they go through difficulties in life. – So, I ask you Church... **Are you faithful to declare it?** (*How does Jesus perceive yours?*)

E. Her Predicament (47) – **READ (47-48):** Wow! He called the woman out publicly, **not to embarrass her**, rather **to encourage her** and especially **Jairus**, who was about to receive horrible news. – Her **Public Confession** would also **empower her** to live a life of faith, no longer in **Fear and Trembling**.

F. Her Peace (48) – *After her confession*, Jesus proclaimed a **Four-Fold Blessing** upon her:

1. She was Included as a **Daughter!** (*Familial inclusion*)
2. She was Encouraged to **Be Joyful!** (*Rather than fearful*)
3. She was **Ultimately Healed** of her 12 year hemorrhaging. – Jesus specifically says, **“Your faith has made you well.”** – The Gr. verb can also be translated, **“has made you whole!”** (*Which she now is!*)
4. She now had **Peace** at the word of Jesus Christ! (*Only Jesus can validate genuine faith, and when He does it results in Peace!*) – The outcast woman now received public recognition/commendation for her faith!

SEG: **Jairus is watching this** and quite possibly growing more anxious with every passing moment. – His initial faith was beginning to fade...

III. FEAR OF A DESPERATE FATHER (49-50) – **READ:** As Jesus concluded his declaration of peace upon the woman, *Jairus’ Faith suddenly became...*

A. His Greatest Fear (49) – Messengers from his household bluntly stated, **“your daughter is dead!”**

1. Such a Statement was like a hard punch to the stomach... **All hope was suddenly gone!** – Disbelief, Despair, Confusion, What to do, How to Respond... raced through Jairus’ mind, especially when they said, **“Do not trouble the teacher.”** – From a human perspective this meant, **It’s too late... nothing can be done!**

- If you have ever lost a loved one, **you know this gut wrenching feeling**. – Fear, Frustration, and Heartache overwhelms you to your very core!

2. Such a Savior was **UNKNOWN** to the messengers, who assumed that Jesus could only help living people. – **They did not know that Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. (John 11:25-26)**

SEG: Jesus was standing with Jairus as he received the horrible news. – But **His next statement** would turn **Jairus’ Greatest Fear** into...

B. His Greatest Hope (50) – **A Reassuring Promise** meant to refocus his faith in who Jesus was. – **“DO NOT BE AFRAID... ONLY BELIEVE, And she will be made well.”**

SEG: **Jesus’ Promise** was Not an Empty Saying, but rather an opportunity to show the ...

IV. FAITHFULNESS OF EMPATHETIC SAVIOR (51-56) – **READ:** With no further delay, we learn of

A. Jesus’ Arrival (51a) – He was there **in response** to the original request of Jairus **(41-42)**.

B. Jesus' Allowance (51b) – He immediately assessed the situation and **only allowed five people to witness His divine work.** – The **“Father and Mother”** of the girl and **“His inner Circle”**: **Peter, James, and John.** – On two other occasions, Jesus permitted them to witness supernatural events: The **Transfiguration** (Luke 9:28) and the **Garden of Gethsemane** (Matt 26:37).

C. Jesus' Address (52) – **To the mourners...** These were **professional wailers** hired to mourn the dead. – (Matt 9:23) lists them as *“flute players and a noisy crowd wailing.”* (*Jewish burials move quickly!*)

1. **Jesus Questioned their noisy weeping.** – I like Matthew's account where Jesus says, *“**make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping.**”*
2. **Jesus knew that the young girl had truly died!** – But He also knew that He was going to raise her back to life and therefore referred to her as *“only sleeping.”*
 - We know that she actually died because **“her spirit”** actually left her at one point (cf. v.55). – In fact (James 2:26a) makes clear that *“a body without the spirit is dead.”*
 - Many passages in the NT use the same terminology: (John 11:11-14; 1 Cor 15:51; 1 Thess 4:13-18).
 - The moment a believer dies, the body sleeps and is buried, but **the spirit is instantly with Christ** (Phil 1:20-24; 2 Cor 5:6-8), *“For to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”*

D. Jesus' Adjustment (53-54a) – **The crowd RIDICULED the claim of Jesus!** – So, He put them all in their proper place... **OUTSIDE!** – I see a principal here: **Disbelief sees Nothing... It only gets in the way!**

P/A – The people who doubt and ridicule what Jesus can do in their lives, will never see His resurrection power at work in their own lives! (*Unless they believe, they will be wailing and gnashing of teeth!*)

E. Jesus' Action (54b-55) – **He immediately took the girl by the hand** and spoke to her, *“Little girl, arise.”* – (Mark 5:41) adds the aramaic phrase, **“Talitha Cumi.”**

1. **Jesus' TOUCH was activated by Jairus's FAITH** in Jesus, *“Come and lay your hand on her, that she may be healed, as she will live”* (cf. Mark 5:23)
2. **Jesus' RESESITATION was a Command!** – *Her spirit immediately returned to her!* – **As she arose, she began to walk around the room,** indicating that **she was truly awake and alive!** (*Not sleepwalking*)
3. **Jesus also commanded her to be fed,** so that her physical body can regain strength. (*famished*)

F. Jesus' Admonition (56) – **The miracle** resulted in the girl's parents being **ASTONISHED** (*rightly so!*) But strangely enough, He specifically charged them to **“Tell no one what happened!”** – On other occasions He did this to divert public attention, so that **His mission would not be hindered.** – **But the report still got out!** (cf. Matt 9:26)

- When you Witness a **True Touch of God**, it's hard to restrain from telling others of **His Faithfulness!**
- When Circumstances **PUSH US** to Desperation, we too should **Reach Out to Jesus with Touching Faith!**
- When Waiting for **JESUS TO MOVE** in our circumstances, **we must allow Patience to Perfect our Faith!**
- When our Greatest Fears are **CONVERTED** to Hope by an Empathetic Savior, we too become astonished!

CLOSING THOUGHTS: Luke chapter eight has taught us that **JESUS has POWER and AUTHORITY** over the Wind and the Waves, over Demons, Disease, and Death. – **It also taught us that...**

Jesus is looking for FAITH... ***"Where is YOUR FAITH,"*** He asked His disciples. – He was *Rejected by the Gadarenes*, because their Fear OVERPOWERED their FAITH. – But in our lesson today (Luke 8:40-56), we learned that **FAITH could Activate HEALING with a simple Touch!**

- Do you have Touching Faith?
- Are you desperately reaching out to Jesus, begging Him to do the impossible in your life?

Closing Verse: ***"And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."*** (Matt 21:22)