

**TRUSTING JESUS FOR WHAT HE CAN DO,  
AND TRUSTING JESUS FOR WHAT HE WON'T DO  
LUKE 8:40–56  
RICK ELZINGA**

Introduction:

Why does Luke record the same kinds of miracles over and over?

The disciples were very slow to learn (Luke 8:24–25), and so are we!

**Luke 8:40–42)**

Context: Jesus is back on the Jewish side of the lake where they welcome him.

As the synagogue ruler, Jairus was probably the presiding officer and had high status in the community. Note his humility and his faith.

Lesson: Do you want God to work in your life and answer your prayers? Humility and faith are keys.

But now an interruption:

**Luke 8:43–45)**

The discharge of blood: probably uterine bleeding/hemorrhage.

What that meant in the first century Jewish culture:

“twelve years” ties the two stories together.

Luke was a doctor (Colossians 4:14)!

Since he is God, didn't Jesus know who touched him?

Two possibilities:

1)

2)

**Luke 8:46–48)**

Lesson: She declares openly what Jesus had done for her, and so should we!

(If you want encouragement, ideas, and prayer to better share about Jesus with your unbelieving family, neighbors, work associates, and friends, tell Rick or text 971-267-9059, and we will inform you about the time and place of the monthly meetings we have during the 9:00am service.)

“your faith has made you well” (Again we see faith and humility.)

**Luke 8:49–53)**

Will Jairus still trust Jesus? Whose voice will he listen to?

Lesson: Who voice will we listen to? What others tell us? What our fears and doubts are telling us?

Why is faith (trusting God) such a big issue in the Bible?

**Luke 8:54–56)**

Why does Jesus tell them not to tell anyone?

**Conclusion:** The same kind of miracles we saw in the previous chapter teach us the same truths about Jesus that his disciples (and we!) are slow to learn.

### **1. Trust Jesus for what he can do.**

Prayer changes outcomes: Hezekiah, Moses, Jonah

The prayer of the man with leprosy: “If you are willing, you can make me clean” (Mark 1:40)  
Note the humility and the faith.

### **2. Trust Jesus for what he won't do.**

Why does Jesus often not do for us what we ask?

- We may not be praying with faith and humility.
- We may give up too soon.
- Jesus may have a better plan.

**Faith is trusting Jesus' power that he can do what we ask, but faith is also trusting his goodness when he won't do what we ask.**

### **Questions to Consider and Discuss:**

1. Try to name as many of the miracles in the gospels as you can remember. What do all these miracles teach us about Jesus?
2. Review what Rick taught about why faith is such a big deal in the Bible. Why is humility also such a big deal in the Bible?
3. What would life had been like for the woman who had uterine bleeding for twelve years? What were the practical ramifications?
4. The woman gave public testimony of what Jesus had done for her, as did the man in the previous story (8:39). So should we! Talk about how you can do that more faithfully.
5. Jairus has to choose whose voice he will believe: the voice of Jesus or the voice of the messengers. Discuss this issue. It is key in the Christian life. Do we listen to the voice of Jesus in the scriptures, or do we listen to the voice of others or even our own voice coming from our fears, our doubts, or our reasoning?
6. Spend time in prayer asking Jesus to do big things because you are trusting him for what he can do.
7. Spend time in prayer surrendering to Jesus what he has not done because you trust his goodness.