

Do Not Fear, Only Believe

Luke 8:40–56 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION: We come today to the 25th sermon in our study of the Gospel according to Luke. As we have said before, the first advent of Christ was a type of preview of coming attractions. To fully grasp the significance of Jesus coming in the flesh, you must rewind over 6,000 years to the very dawn of Creation.

There in the Garden of Eden. Man had just sinned, the verdict had been issued - guilt as charged, and the sentence was death.

- **Immediately** - spiritual death in a spiritual separation from God.
- **Ultimately** - eternal death in a conscious judgment that had been prepared for Satan and Demons but now would have to accommodate those who joined in the rebellion.
- **But Gradually** - there would be a physical sickness and death.
 - We see the first humans living very long lives, hundreds of years... but that life span shortens as time progresses. By Gen. 6, the life span is around **120 years**. By the writing of **Psalm 90:10 (ESV)** ¹⁰ The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty... So a normal human life is 80 - 120 years.

Imagine how it must have been when Adam was sick for the first time. Or the excruciating pain Eve felt when she gave birth to her sons. The work Adam had done in the garden was hardly work at all; now, he must till the soil and work against thorns and weeds. Beyond all of that - funerals. The first was Able, the son of Adam and Eve. Things had changed.

But there was hope - God said the seed of the woman would one day put right all that had gone wrong in the garden. He would crush the serpent's head and be bruised in the process.

That is the hope of **Christmas**, by the way - that the promised seed has come in the person of Jesus Christ. And in the words of Sam Gange to Gandolf - *“everything sad will now become untrue.”*

The ministry of Christ was just that - it was a spilling over of the world that is to come— a preview of coming attractions. We are told that Heaven and Earth are to be reborn - no more death, no more pain, no more hurricanes, no more famine. No more funerals, no more sickness, no more war, no more natural disasters. Life is marked by abundance and plenty.

JOKE: My dad was the youngest of 12 children. They were very poor. But dad said, “We always had plenty. I know we always had plenty because when I’d go back for seconds, mom would say, “no, you’ve had plenty.”

Jesus's ministry was marked by plenty. Plenty of food, plenty of healing, plenty of deliverance.

CONTEXT: When we pick up in Luke 8:40, Jesus is returning to Capernaum from Geraza, where he had exorcized a legion of demons from a man. In the text before us we are introduced to 3 people. Only one is named

- **Jairus** - One of the synagogue officials, also a very loving and faithful dad.
- His **Daughter** - A very sick 12-year-old young lady.
- A **Woman** - likely around the age of Jesus, in her 30s, who had been sick for many years.

When you read a scripture text, begin to identify individuals you can relate to. Are you a father who loves your children? Perhaps you can relate well to Jairus. Are you a young person who has a faithful dad? Perhaps you can relate to his daughter? Are you an adult who has had a difficult journey? Perhaps you can relate to this woman.

TEXT: Luke 8:40–56 (ESV)

⁴⁰ 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.

At this point in Luke's gospel, we are beginning to see the various groups develop strong opinions on the person of Jesus. Humans tend to move in herds; like sheep, we flock together. Peer pressure can be very powerful for good and for bad. Notice how the different groups are responding:

- **Communities** - Notice the difference in how different communities respond to Jesus. In Capernaum, they are welcoming Jesus. Remember last week in Geraza, they were imploring him to leave.
- **Officials** - Here we see that Jairus, a synagogue official is there to welcome Jesus, but remember, just a few weeks ago, we saw that the Pharisees were planning to eliminate Jesus.

It is helpful to think about things in those terms. What is the mood of your group toward Jesus Christ?

- What is the mood of the High School as it relates to Jesus Christ?
- What is the mood of the city as it relates to Jesus Christ?
- What is the mood of your workplace as it relates to Jesus Christ?

There will be a mood. It may be one of indifference, awkwardness, excitement, curiosity, affection. But, there will be a discernable mood. Part of your responsibility as a follower of Jesus Christ is to positively influence that mood.

Our mission as a church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ here and throughout the world, but we must understand that - ***Mission is downstream of Mood.***

That is why you must be more of a thermostat than a thermometer. What's the difference? The thermometer reflects the mood of the environment. The thermostat influences it.

CAPERNAUM'S MOOD WAS VERY POSITIVE. Jairus was undoubtedly instrumental in that. He was a Ruler of the Local Synagogue. Synagogue officials were very important people in Judaism. This is different than the Rabbi. The Rabbi was the Preacher/Teacher; the Synagogue official was something like a combination of Executive Pastor and Worship Leader. He was responsible for the building, its contents, and the arrangement of the worship.

It was Jairus's responsibility to make sure that ***everything was Kosher***. According to the law of Moses, an unclean person wasn't allowed to enter the assembly of worship; that fact is very important to this story. Jairus was the man tasked with the job of telling someone they were unclean, and they were not allowed to worship. Notice how Jairus approaches Jesus.

41b. 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.

How many of you are dads? How many of you are dads of daughters? What a high calling to be entrusted with one of God's little girls. Daughters are so special. Boys are awesome as well, but it's different with little girls.

- Two things will cause an average man to excel - when he is smitten by love for a woman or when he is smitten by love for a daughter.

ILLUSTRATION/JOKE: You've seen a young man just existing playing PlayStation in his mom's basement. He won't comb his hair, his room is a mess and don't even look in the backseat of his car... but then he meets her... and suddenly, he is motivated. He's going to the gym, washing his truck, and wearing deodorant.

This same sort of thing happens when a man has a daughter. He finds a new gear. He realizes she is depending on him to provide and protect her.

ILLUSTRATION: With the birth of each of my daughters - I've found a new job that paid better and enabled me to provide better for my family.

Only a dad knows what it is like to see your daughter suffer.

ILLUSTRATION: Both of our daughters had a form of febrile seizures. I had to watch them as they would have an episode, and there was nothing I could do to stop it.

There is something about seeing your children suffer. Suddenly, nothing else matters. Your priorities are immediately organized around the healing of your child.

Jairus had been there; he had gotten his daughter to the best physicians but to no avail. His only hope was the miracle worker, Jesus of Nazareth.

He had healed many in Capernaum.

- Remember, it was in the Synagogue that Jairus oversaw that a Demon-Possessed man had been delivered back in chapter 4.
- Peter's mother-in-law had been healed from a severe illness.
- The Paralytic had been raised to walk as Jesus taught.
- The nobleman's son in John 4 had been healed.

But what if, for whatever reason, Jesus didn't want to heal Jairus's daughter? The only way to find out was to ask, so he did.

We read that Jairus fell before Jesus' feet as if before a Monarch and implored him on behalf of his daughter. You can almost hear the voice of this broken man, powerless against the ailment that had afflicted his baby girl. Hear him crying out on her behalf?

Can you imagine how his heart soared when Jesus agreed to go? Suddenly, there is hope! He stands to his feet, and together, they make their way to the home of Jairus.

42. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.

Have you ever really needed to be somewhere, but the people in front of you didn't? This girl was on death's doorstep, and her only hope of survival was Jesus Christ. I almost see Jairus begging the crowds to step aside and let the Rabbi through.

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.

Note the IRONY in this story -

- How old was the daughter of Jairus? 12 years old.
- How long had this woman had the issue of blood? 12 years.

Irony is often the fingerprint of Providence.

- 12 years prior - a baby girl had been born. The family celebrated and rejoiced.
- Around the same time, 12 years ago - a woman's cycle would not stop.

And here, the two fate of the younger was being interrupted by the need of the older.

ILLUSTRATION: This week, my son and I went with a group of men from the area on a father/son trip to DC, where we visited the FBI headquarters. One of the things they said over and over is that the ANSWER is always in the details. It's a receipt in a trashcan, it's a crumpled plane ticket, it's a fingerprint on a discarded bag. Or a piece of tape left on a door at the Watergate.

When things like this happen - slow down and look for the hand of God. **Irony is often the fingerprint of Providence.**

This could have been a menstrual issue, some believe was an ovarian issue. We do not know. But she had been bleeding nonstop for 12 years.

- **Physically** - she would have fatigue and lack of strength from the blood loss, constant pain, and discomfort.
- **Religiously** - she would have been cut off from the people being ceremonially unclean.

For 12 years she had touched no one. No hugs, no kisses on the forehead, no one to hold her hand, no one to physical intimacy with her husband - if she had one. Many in this condition would be divorced.

She hadn't been allowed to attend corporate worship at the synagogue for 12 years. Guess who had to tell her she couldn't come and worship with the rest? Jairus. He was the synagogue official who was charged to keep everything kosher.

Certainly, Jairus had empathy for this woman, but any delay at all could cost his daughter her life.

Matthew records that she kept "saying to herself, 'If I only touch His garment, I will get well'" (Matt. 9:21).

In Numbers 15:37–41 (ESV), God commanded Moses - that the men of Israel were to have a loose tassel hanging from their garment to remind them of who they were and to whom they belonged. They were to take hold of that tassel anytime they were tempted to sin.

ILLUSTRATION: SHOW THE PRAYER SHAWL and its tassel.

NOW - the woman felt that she could not touch Jesus; she was unclean. But she thought perhaps she could touch that tassel. That was something that Jesus would have held to many, many times.

The Greek verb translated touched suggests that the woman did not merely tap one of the Lord's tassels but grabbed one and clutched it.

⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. ⁴⁵ 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."

Why did Jesus stop and point this woman out the way he did? Indeed, it could have embarrassed her. But He realized that she had been socially cut off for 12 years. By publicly showing that he had healed her, Jesus was showing in the presence of the community and this synagogue ruler that she was NOW CLEAN.

Jesus isn't some distant, cold, robotic deity - he was acutely aware that this woman was there. He was personally invested in her healing. He cared not only about her physical health but also her social acceptance.

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

Interesting - who was Jesus heading to heal? Jairus's daughter. But here, he stops and calls this woman's daughter. By the way - this is the only time in scripture that Jesus calls anyone daughter.

For 12 years, that woman had not experienced fatherly love. She didn't have a Jairus to go to Jesus for her; she had to go to him herself. Now Jesus was loving her like a dad. Perhaps some of you didn't have a good and godly dad, Jesus will be that for you.

Not only did Jesus heal her body - The phrase “made you well” translates a form of the verb *sōzō*, which is the standard New Testament word for salvation.

It is also used in **Luke 17:19** to describe one of the ten lepers who returned to worship Jesus. While all ten were healed, he alone was saved.

She was restored physically, socially, and spiritually through the power of Jesus.

BUT THEN, there is Jairus... still deeply worried about his daughter.

⁴⁹ 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.”

Not a lot of tact huh? Your daughter is dead, leave Jesus alone. We thank God for hospice workers, nurses, and doctors who have to have this sort of conversation on a regular basis. It takes a lot of tact and grace.

Imagine how Jairus must have felt.

- It's over - the only hope the man had was Jesus, and Jesus didn't move fast enough.
- Imagine how the woman who had been healed must have felt. Her healing may have prevented the healing of this 12-year-old little girl. I'm sure there was

something in her soul that said, “Oh, if I could take it back, I would... let the little girl live”.

- The awful feeling of not being there as his daughter faced death - to remind her how much he loved her and the joy it had been to be her dad.
- Not being there for his wife as their daughter slipped into eternity.

What was happening in the heart of Jairus? Grief, frustration, anger, disappointment... and fear... why fear? Perhaps the fear was the most significant emotion in his soul... why? When men realize that we can't fix things, it can be terrifying. Life has its way of reminding us that we are not God.

Jewish burials happen very quickly, within 24 hours of the person's passing. So the funeral begins immediately after they breathe their last. By the time Jesus and Jairus arrived at the house, the family had gathered.

Professional mourners were there who would have been crying, wailing loudly, and tearing sackcloth. Others would be playing dissonant music on high-pitched flutes. As Jesus and the disciples arrived they could hear the funeral.

Look at verse 50 -

⁵⁰ But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.” ⁵¹ 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. ⁵⁴ But taking her by the hand he called, saying, “Child, arise.”

The Gospels were written in Greek, but Mark records the actual Aramaic words Christ spoke, “**Talitha kum**” (5:41), which means, “Little girl, 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.

“Amazed” translates a form of the verb existēmi, which means “to stand outside oneself,” and is translated as “He has lost His senses” in **Mark 3:21**. They couldn't believe what they were seeing. The dead are raised. HEAVEN HAD TRULY SPILLED OVER INTO EARTH.

CONCLUSION/INVITATION:

Are you a Dad? Thank God for that privilege. You should find a new gear and rise to the high calling of fatherhood. You should do all you can to provide and protect you daughter. You should love her deeply and tell her how special she is. BUT remember - getting her connected to Jesus is loving, protecting, and providing for her eternally.

Having a Christian dad will not make your daughter a Christian, but it should give her a distinct advantage.

Are you a Young Lady or a Young Man? Realize that Christianity is not something that is meant only for your parents. Jesus wants to save you! Jesus wants to know you! Jesus wants to use you in His Kingdom! Not out there after college, but NOW.

And Sisters in Christ - do you know what it is like to feel untouchable? Disgraced? Or, as the text says - unclean? Perhaps because of a sin you committed or one committed against you? Come to Jesus, take hold of Jesus by faith. He will call you daughter. He will love you like your father should have. He will love you like your husband should have.

ONE THING WE CAN ALL RELATE TO IN THE TEXT IS THE CERTAINTY OF DEATH. The stats on death are staggering 1 out of every 1 person born dies. It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment. Hear the words of Jesus -

John 5:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

I say to you what Jesus said to Jairus - Do not fear, only believe