

QUESTIONS JESUS ASKED

Discussion Questions **LEADER GUIDE**

Week of 3/24/24

Text: Luke 8:40-56

Icebreaker: Do you like being in a crowd? Why or why not?

1. Read Luke 8:40-56. What was significant to you from these verses or from the sermon you heard this week? Why?

2. Verses 40-44 describe Jairus's and the woman's situations. What kind of emotions can you imagine them feeling based on what Luke describes?

Both are desperate, but in different ways. We don't get many details about Jairus's situation, but we can imagine that his daughter could have fallen ill suddenly or at least recently. This was not unusual for the ancient world but would have still been devastating to a dad who loves his only daughter! He's likely fearful and scared.

The woman is likely hopeful but worn out from the years of struggle and isolation. She is also fearful of being found out as she enters into a crowd she has no business being a part of given her unclean state (see Lev 15).

Application: What can we notice from their actions that could be a model for how to respond to difficulties in our own lives?

First, they both go to Jesus with their desperation! They go out of their way to get to him. They both demonstrate an initial and responsive faith. It's responsive in the sense that they both must face their doubts and fears as Jesus doesn't comply with all that they want. Jairus wants Jesus to get to his daughter before it's too late and the woman wants Jesus to heal her privately. They continue to trust Jesus, though, even when things seem bleak and their fears are realized.

3. "Who was it that touched me?" in verse 45 is the question for this week. Why would Jesus ask this when he is already dealing with the crisis of Jairus's daughter?

Jesus has a deeper purpose in these events. He wants to draw the woman out of hiding so that he can restore not only her health, but her role as a part of the community of those who are saved by God. Also, he wants to demonstrate his power, not just to heal, but to overcome death. Jesus is showing us, to paraphrase one commentator, how reviving one from death is like waking one from sleep.

Application: Have you faced a situation where Jesus didn't seem to be in as much of a hurry as you were? What happened and did you learn anything from it?

4. Jesus's question leads the woman to come "trembling" to him in verse 47. What would the woman have missed out on if Jesus had let her remain hidden?

She was already healed physically but Jesus desired so much more for her. Her public confession helped announce to the crowd that she was restored into the community after 12 long years of isolation from it. In addition, her public confession likely helped solidify her faith as she proclaimed all that Jesus had done for her.

Application: It has been said that our faith is personal but never private. What can happen when we declare “in the presence of all the people” what God has done for us? What might prevent us from doing it?

5. Verses 49-56 describe the miracle Jesus does for Jairus’s daughter. What was Jesus demonstrating by showing up “late” to Jairus’s house?

Jesus is demonstrating that he’s never behind schedule because he not only has the power to heal but the power to bring life back from death! In other words, Jesus is expanding their view of his power and his identity. We might step back a bit here and notice that Jesus didn’t need to get there before Jairus’s daughter died but also that he didn’t need to get there in the first place. The account of the Roman centurion’s servant, for example, shows us an example of how it was possible for Jesus to heal without even being present.

Application: What can we learn or be reminded of about Jesus from this passage? Is there some way in which you tend to underestimate his power in your life?