

A Study of the Gospel of Luke – Part One
Lesson 21

1. Read Luke 8:40–56 on the last page of the lesson. Now read the other gospel accounts on that page. Take time to compare and highlight different parts of this event that add to or enrich Luke’s record. You may want to keep this page out as you work through the lesson.

2. How does Jairus, this leading citizen of Capernaum, approach Jesus? (v. 41)

Jairus

Jairus, as synagogue ruler, would be “the official who was responsible for the arrangements at the synagogue services. He would select, for example, those who would lead in the prayer, read the Scripture and preach. He was thus a man of eminence in the community.”¹

3. Jairus has pushed his way through the crowd because his only daughter is lying at home dying. Try to imagine yourself in Jairus’s situation. How would he probably have been feeling?
4. What delays the trip to Jairus’s house? (vv. 43–48; See if you can come up with more than one answer.)
5. What do we know about the woman who slips through the crowd to touch Jesus? (v. 43; Mk. 5:26)
6. What does the Law have to say about the woman’s condition? (Lev. 15:25–33)

7. In light of the Law, what do you think this woman's life has been like for the past 12 years?
8. What hope do Jairus and the woman both have when they come to Jesus? (Mk. 5:23, 28)
9. Why can't the woman slip away unnoticed after touching Jesus?
10. Though there is the pressing need to get to Jairus's house, why do you think it is so important for Jesus to know and interact with the one who "touched" (v. 45) him?

Under the Law, this woman would have defiled God's sanctuary (Lev. 15:31) and so was excluded from the central place of worship for the nation. In her desperation she reaches out and touches Jesus and finds that her uncleanness is taken away, and she receives acceptance, healing, and peace.

11. Undoubtedly Jairus is desperate for Jesus to get to his house. How does Jesus respond to the crushing news Jairus receives along the way? (v. 50)
12. When Jesus raised the widow's son in Luke 7:11–17, many witnessed the miracle. In the case of Jairus's daughter only a few (v. 51) are allowed the privilege of seeing her raised. Why do you think this is so? (Consider the following verses: 40, 45b, 56; Mt. 9:26; and Mk. 1:43–45.)
13. The resurrection of Jairus's only daughter points forward to the resurrection of God's only son. What is the difference between Jesus' resurrection and the little girl's resurrection? (Jn. 10:17–18; 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:20–22)

14. While Jesus was gracious in healing many during his earthly ministry and raised at least three people who had died, what greater truths do these tangible miracles help us understand?

Jn. 5:24; Eph. 2:5

Rom. 6:6–7; Col. 3:1–3

Jn. 5:28–29a; 1 Thess. 4:16–17

15. In this week's passage, we have seen

*a prominent man humble himself before Jesus in spite of a large crowd
and
a marginalized woman courageously approach Jesus in the midst of the same large crowd.*

Desperation and hope have driven both of them to the only one who could truly help them. What similarities or differences do you see between your own life and theirs? (You may want to consider what makes you feel desperate and needy versus self-sufficient and able to handle life on your own.)

Meditate on John 15:5, in which Jesus says,
“apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing” (Amplified version).

¹ Leon Morris. *The Gospel According to St. Luke: Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (London: Inter-Varsity Press, 1980), 158.

² Ibid.

Luke 8:40-56

40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. **41** Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house **42** because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. **43** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. **44** She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."

47 Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. **48** Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher anymore."

50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. **52** Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. **54** But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" **55** Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. **56** Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Matthew 9:18-26

18 While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." **19** Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. **21** She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

23 When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, **24** he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. **25** After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. **26** News of this spread through all that region.

NOTE that Matthew's account is considerably shorter than Luke or Mark's accounts. This may explain why Jairus' daughter is said to have "just died." "Matthew shortens the story by running both Jairus' initial request of Jesus and the announcement that his daughter was dead] into one." ²

Mark 5:22-43

22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. **23** He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." **24** So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. **25** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. **26** She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. **27** When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28** because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." **29** Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. **33** Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. **34** He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. **38** When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. **39** He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." **40** But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41** He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha kumi" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). **42** Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43** He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.