

FAITH MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

Luke 8:40-56

Faith works

***Those who trust Him are blessed,
no matter what their condition or background.***

DEFINITION OF ALTERNATIVES 7:1-9:50

Acceptance by outcasts of society 7:1-8:3

Different responses predicted 8:4-21

Different responses demonstrated 8:22-56

After stating the principle that receiving God's word is based on the condition of the heart rather than the nature of the evidence, examples are presented where evidence of Jesus' Messiahship is provided but the response of observers varies.

In each case the difference is in the **observer**, **NOT** in the **evidence**.

Calming of the storm 8:22-25

Healing of demoniac 8:26-39

RESURRECTION AND HEALING 8:40-56

The resurrection of Jairus' daughter and the healing of the woman with a hemorrhage demonstrate that *God blesses those who trust Jesus, whatever their condition or background may be!*

JAIRUS' APPEAL TO JESUS FOR HELP 8:40-42

Did you notice the contrast between the response of the crowd on God's side of the sea, and the opposite side? **8:40**

The pagan people on the other side of the lake just asked Jesus to leave.

When Jesus comes back they all welcome Him.

They are waiting for Him—the motivation and long-term response may not be so enthusiastic, but right now they're glad to have Him back!

8:41-42a Jairus is a religious leader—respected by God's people.

He makes a **public commitment of faith in Jesus'** ability to save his daughter.

He holds back nothing. No reservations.

No maintaining his dignity. He falls at Jesus' feet!

He knows what he needs and has total confidence in Jesus' ability.

[Before Jairus' request can be dealt with, while they are on the way to his house, another instance of faith which results in blessing is presented:]

WOMAN'S HEALING FROM HEMORRHAGING 8:43-48

Her Faith 8:43-44

A woman suffering from internal bleeding for 12 years trusts Him and is healed.

There are many people around Him but only one stretches out her hand.

She receives the blessing.—a woman—poor and sickly

She's an outcast—not only weak and sick

She is "unclean" and defiled.

She has to stay away from the worship center and from other people.

She has been ill for 12 years, has tried everything, and nothing worked.

She has hoped before.

Someone had undoubtedly presented himself: "You tried so-and-so but he's a quack; mine is a scientific remedy.

You have used a medicine which I could have told you was worthless; but I have a secret.

Put yourself in my hands and I will solve your problem."

Again and again she tried – but it always failed!

So why trust Jesus now? He WAS different!

She may have thought she could hide in the crowd and still get what she wanted.

His response 8:45-46

The description of the scene helps us appreciate what's going on around Him: "almost crushed" (8:42), "crowding" (8:45), "pressing against"

Jesus asks "Who touched me?"

Not because He doesn't know

It's more likely that this dialogue is for her sake.

She needs to deal with her *spiritual* condition too.

She has to take an additional step of faith.

She has to expose herself – reveal her desire and what Christ did for her.

The disciples think His question is unreasonable.

What could He mean: "Who touched me?"!!!

Many had touched Him!

Jesus and the woman both know that this touch was different.

It's an act of faith.

And He knows all about it!

TOUCHING HIM VS. TOUCHING HIM

The crowd touched Him.

The woman touched Him.

Peter takes it on himself to clarify things for the Lord. 8:45b

Many touched Him in the press.

The touch wasn't significant.

Jesus knows there's more to it than that.

He *knows* what the touch is all about.

You can **imagine the raising anxiety level for Jairus.**

He's waiting for Jesus to come help his daughter before it's too late.

While Jesus is discussing whether someone in the crowd touched him or not!

Her testimony 8:47

She has lost her health, her wealth, and her position in society.

She is an outcast. She has nothing left.

And yet, Jesus makes Jairus wait for Him to deal with her need.

She doesn't escape notice.

Her faith concealed has to be changed into faith revealed.

– For the strengthening of her own faith

– For the benefit of others

– For the glory of God.

His response 8:48

Her faith makes her well.

Peace was to be the result of her faith – where once her life was in turmoil!

WHY IS THE CASE OF THE WOMAN ALLOWED TO INTERRUPT THE RESURRECTION INCIDENT?

Because of the woman –

1. **She might have felt guilty** for sneaking a blessing from the Lord.

It's no surprise to Him.

2. **To let her know that the power to heal isn't in His robe**

This isn't a magical, superstitious power that heals her.
His personal response to her personal faith brings healing.
HE's the One who does it.

He knows her heart and need, as she's sneaking up on Him

3. **In order to deal with her spiritual condition also 8:48**

She trusts Him for physical healing,
but hasn't yet dealt with her spiritual need for healing.

The woman's faith heals her (8:48)

Now she can go in peace. (7:50)

This healing, in the middle of the resurrection story, demonstrates that
God blesses those who trust Jesus, no matter what their condition or
background.

Because of Jairus–

1. **Proof of his faith– He has to trust the Lord, and wait on Him**

That's one of the hardest things for us too! We HATE to wait!
Added delays, or even death, was no problem for God to deal with.

2. **He doesn't have special influence with God** because of his position.

God doesn't show partiality to the upper classes.

3. **He has to wait for God's timing before he can receive his desire.**

He isn't in control here! Neither are we!

Because of the people–

1. It's a **testimony to those who are watching**

2. It **causes Jairus' daughter to be resurrection**, rather than healing.

JAIROS' DAUGHTER HEALED 8:49-56

Word of her death received 8:49

They bring the message from home.

Stop pestering the Master! It's too late!

Word of encouragement from the Lord to **keep trusting Him 8:50**

The man says nothing but *panic* sets in.

Jesus' words indicate that he's fearful: **"Stop fearing"**.

Her condition 8:51-53

When Jesus takes the select group into the room, the hired mourners have already been
brought in to weep over her body.

Jesus instructs them to hush.

This is not the sleep of death, but that of one about to be awakened–

His call will awaken her.

She's dead alright. (Jn. 11:11)

But He can awaken her from the sleep of death, as a parent calls a child to awaken
in the morning.

Jesus instructs the crowd to stop mourning–they *are* mourning.

He tells them to stop.

Their tears change to mocking laughter when He tells them she isn't really dead,
but only asleep.

He isn't addressing tears, but the wailing of the mourners.

It demonstrates the significance of death when faced **by the eternal God of the
universe–death is like sleep.**

It awaits the wake up call of the Master.

Her resurrection 8:54-56

To the crowd, the message is that Jesus is right.

She was asleep and He awakened her.

Eating demonstrates that she is not only alive, but totally well.

Why the silence?

There's an attempt here to avoid sensationalism,
and the attraction of the crowd that's just coming for the show.

Jesus doesn't want the publicity nor the crowds.

To keep from proclaiming Him Messiah out of time?

To stop the followers of the spectacular?

These incidents from the life of our Lord teach us some important lessons
about the nature of faith–

FAITH that WORKS – *Faith is only as valuable as its object!*

NOT faith in faith

NOT faith in healing

IT'S faith IN JESUS that makes the difference!

What are WE trusting in?

God is still able to deal with physical disease in a supernatural way, even as he did in our
Lord's time.

However, if we focus on that, we miss the real point of what's taking place here.

The issue is who Jesus is and the difference faith makes, when you trust Him.

The miracles occur to demonstrate that He is who He said He is.

The ultimate result is salvation and peace!

The physical demonstrates that Jesus can deal with the deeper needs of people–their
spiritual hunger and thirst.

If He can resolve physical pain, He can resolve emotional and spiritual pain.

We're all dead! Jesus can call us to life.

He says to us what he says to Jairus:

"Stop being so skeptical! Trust me! I can make you well!"

The woman tried everything and found that *nothing* worked.

Then–in desperation–she came to Jesus.

He could deal with those things that no one else could help her deal with.

He could give her the peace she was seeking.

The power was not in the finger that touched Him–but in the One touched.

BOTH OF THESE INCIDENTS POINT TO THE SAME CONCLUSION:

JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE!

He can handle it!

He can heal the wounds of our past.

He can solve our turmoil and give US peace. TRUST HIM!