

# Stories

**E.T.S.:** Luke 8:41-56 describes two miracles by Jesus: the healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter to life.

**E.S.S.:** The similarities between Jairus and the woman represent characteristics that we should recognize and respond to for our own lives.

**Christ Follower:** For the follower of Jesus, allow God to use your story to motivate your growth.

**Christ Seeker:** For the one who has not believed, has questions, or is skeptical, turn to Jesus in your desperation.

## Introduction

Open your Bible to Luke chapter eight.

## Illustration

Every human knows what it is to be human. Everyone has a story, and the story each of us has includes ups and downs, joys and griefs, successes and failures, and wins and losses. Though I may not experience everything you and you may not experience everything I do, it is the

commonalities of our stories that connect us. We can empathize with each other, but we can also learn from each other.

As I have had different experiences, especially the hard ones, friends in ministry have told me that the experiences will serve to make me a more empathetic pastor who is better able to sympathize with people.

This is true, not only for pastors, but for anyone. Our experiences connect us and enable us to empathize with and encourage one another better.

## Introduction

The message comes from verses 41-56 of Luke chapter eight. Often, we'll treat these two familiar stories individually. Today, I want to examine them as one account. We find two people, two families, with very different stories. Yet, there are commonalities in the stories that connect them.

As we look at their stories, we too can connect. As we do, we can grow in empathy and also be encouraged.

Let's read the account. Follow along as I read Luke 8:41-56.

## Bible

*(41) And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: (42) For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she*

lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. (43) And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, (44) Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. (45) And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? (46) And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. (47) And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. (48) And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. (49) While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. (50) But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. (51) And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. (52) And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. (53) And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. (54) And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. (55) And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. (56) And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

Luke 8:41-56 - KJV

# Introduction

From the account, I gather three commonalities in their different stories that we can learn from.

Seeing them will grow our empathy and encourage our growth.

## 1...Desperation (vv. 41-43)

### Explanation

Verses 41-42 introduce us to Jairus:

- ruler of the synagogue in charge of conducting services, selecting participants, and maintaining order
- father of an only child, a daughter who was sick and dying

Her illness or injury appears to be a sudden, serious situation that Jairus nor his wife were prepared for.

Verse 43 introduces us to an unnamed woman:

- chronic bleeder for 12 years of a menstrual type
- financially ruined from spending all her wealth on doctors and treatments
- ceremonially unclean because of her condition meaning if she was married and had children she could have no contact with her husband or children, if she was single she had no prospects, among other social distancing requirements

Both of these individuals, though they had different stories, were desperate. However, there

was a commonality in their desperation: a delay. The delay certainly served to increase their desperation. However, the increase of desperation also served to magnify the deliverance.

## Application

The reasons for desperation are often varied and complex:

- physical
- relational
- financial
- emotional

If you are human, you have experienced difficulties in these areas at different points in your life.

Though your specific story may differ from someone else's, these difficulties often lead us to desperation. Additionally, we may be more prone to desperation when facing difficulty in a specific area, while difficulties in other areas do not lead us to desperation.

For you, physical struggles may lead to desperation, while financial challenges don't bother you. For someone else, it may be the relational challenges that really bother you, but physical difficulties do not.

Whatever it is for you, how do you respond when you face those things that you struggle with?

We all, who are human, face things that drive us to desperation. Our stories may be different from one another, but that commonality exists.

How do you respond?

## **Explanation**

The individuals in the account had different stories, but they each knew desperation. They also did what each of us should do when we find ourselves there. They ran to Jesus!

What other commonality do we see between these two?

## **2...Humility (vv. 41 & 47)**

### **Explanation**

Remembering who Jairus was in the community, look at what Luke says he did in verse 41 of the text. He "fell down at Jesus' feet." This activity indicates a position of prostration before another and worship.

This is behavior usually reserved for someone in authority and, for the Jew, especially God.

### **Illustration**

I am not sure what started it but about a year back our son, Michael who was four at the time, and our daughter, Evelyn who was five at the time, were running around playing. Suddenly, Evelyn stood still as Michael came to her and said, "Yes, your majesty. I will bow to you."

He proceeded to get completely down before her.

## Explanation

When Jairus does this, he elevates Jesus far above himself.

Additionally, the Bible says that he "besought" Jesus. Mark's Gospel account emphasizes that Jairus did so "greatly." This language emphasizes an earnest request, plea, or begging.

These activities express the attitude of Jarius' heart: he humbled himself before Jesus.

I cannot explain all the reasons for the woman with the issue of blood approaching Jesus as she did. However, humility seems to be involved, especially as she approaches Jesus similarly to the way Jairus did when Jesus called her. It says of her that she came "falling down before him." This is the same word used in verse 28 of the same chapter where the demon possessed man of Gadara came and fell before Him.

## Application

What is humility?

There are many ideas, definitions, and applications out there. Let's use the demonstration in the passage as a pattern.

Regardless of the characteristics of their stories, these had come to the end of themselves and their resources. They could not, in and of themselves, fix their situations. Instead, they had to depend on and submit themselves to the power and will of another.

Think about what Jesus said about humility.

## Bible

*(4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest*

*in the kingdom of heaven.*

*Matthew 18:4 - KJV*

## Explanation

This child, as well as children in general, did not have to humble himself or herself; children are humble by nature. They are humble by nature in the sense that a child, especially the younger a child is, has to depend on someone else for everything.

## Application

What does humility look like?

I agree with Warren Wiersbe's estimation. Humility is not thinking less of self; it is thinking of self less. It makes much of God. It concerns self with God's will and glory, rather than his or her own inadequacy, success, or failure. An author described humility this way:

*Humility is the absence of self in all we think, do or say. You know when you encounter humility because you are irresistibly drawn to and awestruck by its presence.*

*People with the quality of humility are interested in everyone else. In conversations, they want to know about you. They are not looking for ways you can be a blessing to*

*them, they are looking for ways they can bless you. Humility is the very opposite of pride and arrogance. In a disagreement, pride is concerned with who is right, humility is concerned with what is right. Pride and arrogance are all about self, they are always looking down at everyone else. Humility looks up (Glynda Lomax).*

## **Application**

Are you humble?

I know it's a difficult question to answer because saying you're humble sounds not humble. So, don't answer for yourself. Let the Holy Spirit answer for you.

What's the third commonality we see in the stories of these two?

## **3...Faith (vv. 48 & 50)**

### **Explanation**

In one, faith was commended; in the other, faith was commaded.

### **A...Faith Commended (v. 48)**

### **Explanation**

Why did she do what she did?

Mark records this:

## **Bible**

*(28) For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.*

*Mark 5:28 - KJV*

## **Explanation**

The ancient middle eastern culture viewed the power of an individual transferring to their clothes and belongings. In this way, the clothes or belongings became a sort of talisman or charm. It was a prevalent superstition. Even if her faith was imperfect - mixed with superstition, this woman placed all of her hope in Jesus Christ and it was this - that her faith was placed in Jesus - that mattered.

I don't think her faith was perfect, but her faith was in the perfect person.

That's why Jesus declared, "Thy faith hath made thee whole."

## **Application**

Remember this: God doesn't demand a perfect faith, but faith in Him.

## **B...Faith Commanded (v. 50)**

## **Explanation**

From commending her faith and sending her on her way, Jesus turned to Jairus who received word that his daughter died in the space of time between his departure to find Jesus and now.

This was a gut-check to a man in desperation who believed he had the answer. Even then, Jesus spoke to him to exhort him to faith instead of fear.

## **Application**

We often hear that God is working, even in delays. What we don't often hear is that things can get worse in that time.

Have you had that experience?

It is in these times and situations that faith is tested and stretched. Yet, God commands us to "fear not, only believe."

## **Explanation**

The remainder of the story represents that activity and reward of faith. Jairus' faith is seen in his response to Jesus; the reward of faith - for him - was to receive his daughter again.

## **Application**

While I cannot tell you what the response of faith will produce in your situation, I believe that God responds to the faith of His people.

Whatever the situation of your story may be, trust.

## **Conclusion**

**Christ Follower:** For the follower of Jesus, allow God to use your story to motivate your

growth.

**Christ Seeker:** For the one who has not believed, has questions, or is skeptical, turn to Jesus in your desperation.