



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community
Group
study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

For the week of
31st of May 2020



The perfect touch

Some of the things that are most missed at this time are sports events and concerts, and many people are looking forwards to when they will be able to go back to concert halls and stadiums. We miss them because we enjoy watching an athlete do something with a ball we can only dream about, or hear a musician make sound come out of a guitar which connects with our soul. We are willing to pay for their touch on our lives, and the more they touch us the more we identify with them, and even begin to try to emulate them so we could have their touch and identity.

But who can give us the identity we so crave and how lasting will it be in this ever changing world?



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. 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.

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

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.” 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.” 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.

Luke 8:40–56 (ESV)

Commentary

Jesus had been on the other side of the lake in the gentile region known as Decapolis where He had cast a large number of demons out of a man into a herd of pigs which had been destroyed. The people of the region, hearing about what Jesus did asked Him to leave which He does, but first tells the man to go around and tell people what the Lord has done for him.

While the people on the other side of the lake didn't want Jesus the people Jewish side did, and they eagerly anticipated His return, although what did they think He was going to do for them? There was also a man there, Jairus, who was a Jewish leader, with responsibility and authority in the synagogue. Most of the Jewish leadership has become adversarial to Jesus, but Jairus does not approach Jesus in an indifferent or hostile way, but he falls at his feet in humility. His twelve year old daughter is dying and he begs Jesus to come to his house. Luke does not tell us Jesus' verbal response but He agrees and goes with Jairus. We are told the crowd pressed in on Jesus; the word literally means chocked and is only used in one other place - the parable of the soils where the thorns "choked" our the growth of the seed. The cares and concerns of Galilee were literally trying to choke out the sower as He went about His ministry!

As this heaving mass of humanity moved towards Jairus' house, there was another person in the crowd who desperately needed Jesus touch in her life. She had a bleeding problem, and she had had it for twelve years, the same time Jairus' daughter had been alive. Clearly this problem then wasn't a life threatening medical issue, but it was a life threatening social issue. We don't know

the woman's age but it seems as if she is single, and no wonder because she would have been considered by others and herself as ritually unclean (see Leviticus 15:19 - 31). Her impurity would have kept her socially and economically isolated. We also learn that she had tried to find an answer to her problem, but none of the doctors she had visited had been able to do anything except relieve her of all her life savings. She had exhausted all her resources except one; Jesus!

We aren't told how she sees Jesus, but however it is, she seems to believe that if she just touches Him she will be healed. Somehow she manages to get through the "choking" crowd to touch Jesus' fringe and she is instantly healed. If she thought she was just going to quietly slip away she was mistaken because Jesus stopped and asked who touched Him. Peter points out the obvious, "everyone is touching you, everyone wants a piece of you, what do you mean who touched you?" But the touch which Jesus is talking about is a different kind of touch because it had accessed His power. This is not the first time Luke had talked about the Jesus acting in the power of the Lord.

17 On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.

Luke 5:17 (ESV)

19 And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

Luke 6:19 (ESV)

The woman frightened about Jesus might say to her for breaking the law comes forward trembling, like Jairus falling at His feet and spills the beans not just to Jesus but to everyone about her identity and what she did. Jesus far from telling her off, calls her “daughter,” and that her faith has made her well. Not only has she received physical healing, but she has been reinstated into her community, but most importantly into God’s community through her faith. She is a daughter of the king.

Meanwhile Jairus receives news; he is not to bother Jesus, the “master” anymore, his daughter has died. It’s too late, and what the title they give Jesus betrays what they think Jesus can do.

Jesus responds to the news by telling Jairus not to worry about what he has just heard, but that He must believe.

They reach the house and people are mourning the loss, but Jesus tells them not weep because there is nothing to cry about, the girl is not dead only sleeping, they laugh at Him, but their laughter is in derision not in faith Jesus has the power to turn mourning into joy.

Jesus allows only the mother and father of the girl and Peter, John and James into the room as He commands the girl to arise, which she does to the amazement of her parents, and to show this resuscitation is complete Jesus commands the girl to be fed. Dead people don’t eat!

Jesus also commands that they don’t say a word about this, because He is being “choked” enough as it is by the crowds!

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week's study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

What ways do we use to identify people?

What are key things about your identity you generally mention to someone new when introduced?

What is the identity we all share in? Read: Isaiah 64:6, John 3:3, Romans 3:10, 23, 5:8, 6:23, 1 John 1:8-9, 3:4, and discuss what it is.

Who is the only one we can get new identity through?

Describe the new identity you have in Christ using the following verses to help you; Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:12, Colossians 2:9-15, Galatians 3:27-28, 1 Peter 2:9-10.

How did your identity change from before Christ found you?

Why would someone not want to receive the identity Christ offers us?

What obstacles did the woman face in getting to Jesus and what made her push through to touch Him?

Read Ruth chapter one and discuss where Ruth was insistent on where she would find her identity and the cost it meant for her.

If you had been Jairus, how would you have felt about Jesus' delay?

The mourners laughed at Jesus, but Jesus says mourners who trust in Him will have the last laugh.

21 "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh.

Luke 6:21 (ESV)

Has Jesus ever given you something back which you thought was dead and buried?

Personal study time

Read the Psalm 30 and using the REAP method to reflect on God's touch restores our identity.

1 *I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up*

and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

2 *O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.*

3 *O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;*

you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

4 *Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.*

5 *For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.*

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

6 *As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."*

7 *By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong;*

you hid your face; I was dismayed.

8 *To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:*

9 *"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?*

*Will the dust praise you?
Will it tell of your faithfulness?*

REAP Method of studying Scripture

READ

Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- * What is going on in the passage?
- * Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- * When was the author writing?
- * What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- * Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- * how do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- * What is God's word for me from this passage?
- * How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?

KIDS CORNER



Helping the Hurting

1. Who do you know who's having a hard time?

We see and hear of a lot of hurting nowadays. Whether it's our friend getting a scraped knee, someone's family experiencing a loss, or a stranger becoming homeless, we know that there are a lot of bad things happening around us. It's easy to feel like we can't do anything about those things, and sometimes that can even make us stop caring too. Fortunately, as we read in Luke 8, Jesus was different than that. He was all for caring about those who were hurting and helping whoever was in need. He was not "troubled" by the distressed father, nor did he resent the ailing woman for receiving His healing power. His aim was always to help others, even if it was at His own expense.

Today, Jesus is our example to live by. The selfless compassion

and helping hand He extended to others are the very things we should be striving to offer those around us. But, unlike the Lord of all creation, we don't have unlimited healing power to give. So what can we do? There are many things! We can speak kindly to those who are upset, and encourage people who are sad. We can share with others when we have good things, and choose to be generous toward those who need it. The most important and powerful thing we can do is pray! We can pray for any and every struggling person or hurtful situation we see. Let's follow the example of Jesus and make His goal of helping those who are hurting our goal too.

2. Will you follow Jesus' example toward the ones having a hard time right now?

