

**Jesus: A Friend of the Desperate**  
**Series: Luke**  
**February 4, 2018 Pastor Bill Bump**

Henry David Thoreau: "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation."

Luke 8 records stories of two people who turned to Jesus in desperation.

Desperate person #1: Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue

Luke 8:40-42 <sup>40</sup> Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. <sup>41</sup> Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house <sup>42</sup> because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

*As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.*

By this time, most of Jairus' fellow religious leaders had rejected Jesus as an imposter. But, Jairus did not care what people thought; he was desperate

Desperate person #2: The hemorrhaging woman

Luke 8:43-44 <sup>43</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

This woman was physically exhausted and socially ostracized.

Psalm 34:18 *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Why did Jesus challenge this woman to come forth publicly and admit what she had done?

Luke 8:45-48 <sup>45</sup> "Who touched me?" Jesus asked.

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

<sup>46</sup> *But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."*

<sup>47</sup> *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. <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

1. Her relationship with Jesus needed to be personal, not nameless.
2. Jesus wanted her faith to be in Him, not in His robe.
3. Jesus wanted her healing to be made public to increase the faith of others.

William Barclay: "She was a poor, unimportant sufferer ignored by the crowd but Jesus treated her as if she was the only person in the world."

Jairus' faith is rewarded with life.

Luke 8:49-56 <sup>49</sup> 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."

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

<sup>51</sup> 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. <sup>52</sup> Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."

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

It is interesting the number of times the Bible compares death to sleep.

Resurrection, for Jesus, will be as easy as rousing somebody from sleep.

## Conclusion

Two definitive lessons from Luke 8:40-56:

1. When we're desperate, we are to reach out to Jesus despite any obstacle.
2. When we're desperate, we are to keep trusting Jesus even through disaster.