



Do a little recap of Luke 8 for context of what has been going on in the life of Jesus and His ministry.

Remember that Jesus calms the storm - they sailed across the Sea of Galilee to the area of the Decapolis – (10 cities region) to the area of the Gerasenes – this is a gentile region. They left Galilee that was made up of Jews. He heals the demon possessed and wipes out the livelihood of those in the area who were pig farmers.

You may want to read Luke 8:26-39 if you did not last week or just summarize.

Vaughn did a good job last week talking about the evidence of evil.

In your reading of the passage you will see that Jesus casts the demons out and they go into a herd of pigs and then run off into the lake. The locals were not pleased and ran Jesus out of the region. He was welcomed in Galilee but not so much in the Decapolis. He had taken their farming livelihood and wiped it out.

Take some time to read this week's passage of Luke 8:40-56 where we see that Jesus is back in Galilee.

*"Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. 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, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him. 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. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased. 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!" But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." 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. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." 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." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well." 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. And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened."*

*Luke 8:40-56 ESV*

The bleeding woman is healed by touching His garment. Dr. Luke goes into a little detail because he is a dr. and the woman has exhausted her medical options. Are there times that you have exhausted all the conventional means to make things happen? What does that look like in your life?

This passage reminds us that chronic affliction is real. Chronic affliction affects us in many ways - it can lead to feelings of hopelessness, isolation, frustration, fatigue, desperation, etc. Maybe some in your group are experiencing chronic illness or have loved ones who are. Be sensitive to those who may be struggling and offer a time of prayer for them.

Not only the woman afflicted with bleeding but we read that Jairus' daughter is another part of this story. Who is Jarius?

Jesus is headed to heal the young daughter when the bleeding woman touched Him and was healed.

Possibly the delay may have kept Jesus from healing her before death. Are there some delays you may have been experiencing that God has seemingly slowed His roll? Why does God make us wait? Here we see in this instance that death is not a barrier or tough one for Jesus.

Here are the Takeaways from these narratives of the bleeding woman and the dead girl - No one is too far gone for Jesus.

- Jesus heals the spiritually sick (30-39) Jesus will ruin the local economy to save one man who was not asking to be healed
- Jesus heals the chronically sick (43-48) sometimes He heals inexplicably
- Jesus heals the fatally sick (49-56)

Sometimes we feel too far gone but Jesus overcomes all of our fears. Who is someone that you might consider to be too far gone? Don't ask for audible answers but you might guide them to write down their name as a reminder that no one is too far gone for God.

You might want to ask these questions –

What are your demons? What are the things that afflict you?

What is your chronic illness? Is there something you would like for God to release you from now?

Sometimes God allows things in our lives and it seems unexplainable. Does that cause you to run or to lean in and trust Him more completely?

Remember that our Hope lies in our eternity.

- You are not too far gone for Jesus
- He might sail through a storm to come rescue you.
- He may cast the demons out of you.
- He will bring you back to life.

God's Love is not reckless. It is purposeful and perfect. It is strategic and not haphazard because it fulfills His purposes.

Here we see Jesus as Jehovah Rapha - the One who heals

*Psalm 103:1-5*

*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

Take time for prayer requests and spend time praying together.