

RESPOND (Application for this week) **WHAT** were the most significant scriptures for you this week? _____

WHY are those scriptures *significant to you* at this time in your life?

HOW can you practically apply what God spoke to you about this week?
[Try to respond in terms of specific action steps, specific people, long-term plan.]

WHAT will be the time frame for your application?
(1) Start Date _____ (2) *Progress* Check Date(s) _____ (3) Finish Date _____

WHO I can ask to hold me accountable for my application: _____

Sermon-Based Devotional

Lawrence Free Methodist Church
(Based on a Sermon by Pastor Bill Bump on February 4, 2018)
Series: The Gospel of LUKE

*Note – There is an OVERVIEW of Luke available on the kiosk where you pick up this Devotional. You may find it helpful in your study and processing of the sermon and this Sermon-Based Devotional.

Jesus: A Friend of the Desperate

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*

READ the following two passages. Mark what stands out to you.

Luke 8:40-42 ⁴⁰ Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed Him, for they were all expecting Him. ⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with Him to come to his house ⁴² 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 ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ She came up behind Him and touched the edge of His cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in the above two passages.
I.E. – People knew Jesus was a person they could go to in time of need for help. Whether they were wealthy or poor – sick, or healthy and going to Jesus on behalf of another, that didn’t matter. Jesus would listen and was always available to help those who were humble and who would come to Him in faith. The woman in verses 43 & 44 just needed to get close to Jesus – & His healing power transformed her life because of her steps of faith that demonstrated her acknowledged need & dependence upon Him. Now write your thoughts.

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?

READ Luke 8:45-48 Mark what stands out to you.

⁴⁵ "Who touched Me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched Me; I know that power has gone out from Me."

⁴⁷ 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.

⁴⁸ Then He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in Luke 8:45-48.

I.E. - Jesus asked a question, and the woman had a choice to respond or not. Because she responded to Jesus, HE responded to her - and she and others discovered more about faith in action & how the life-transforming power of Jesus works in our lives.

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.

Why do you think Jesus asked, "Who touched Me?"

[Keep in mind that Jesus was training His disciples and in a public situation.]

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.

READ Luke 8:49-56 Mark what stands out to you.

⁴⁹ 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."

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

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

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

REFLECT Write your thoughts from what you marked in Luke 8:49-56.

I.E. - Jesus said, "My child, get up!" He referred to her as His child. Jesus said: "For even as the Father has life in Himself & is self-existent, so He has given to the Son to have life in Himself & be self-existent." [John 5: 26, AMP] He is the source of life. Jesus was involved in the creation of the world and everything! He gave this little girl life - and she really was a child of God ---- And Jesus said: "Don't let your heart be troubled (distressed, agitated). You trust God, now trust Me." [John 14:1:] I am to bring concerns to Jesus and trust Him with things in my life that I have no power or control over. - Maybe those types of things are allowed by the Lord so that I will learn to come to Him, surrender my life to Him, to and trust Him.

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.