

LIFE Group Sermon Questions

The Center of Everything: Believing

Pastor Josh Parsons

March 22, 2026

Luke 8:40-56



THE ORCHARD

Luke 8:40-56

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 about 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.

Sermon Outline

- I. Two pictures of desperation (Luke 8:42, 43)
- II. Two pictures of faith (Luke 8:48, 50)
- III. Two pictures of power (Luke 8:44, 55)
- IV. Two pictures of our future (Luke 8:48, 52)

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn't know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?

2. In Luke 8:40-56, Luke blends two stories together, which isn't how he typically tells a story. Sometimes the grammar and structure of a particular Bible text can tell us something about what God is saying. What are some other examples of the grammar or structure of a passage or verse helping us understand what the passage is about? (Think about repetition of words, the presence of themes, the order of events, the presence (or absence) of dialogue, etc.).

3. When have you felt *desperate*? How can we “use” our desperation to drive us to Jesus? What are some reasons for why we sometimes *don't* go to Jesus even *when we're* desperate?
4. How can *you* be compassionate (like Jesus is) toward those who've found themselves in a hard place? Who do you know that could use some of that compassion right now?
5. Why is it such good news that Jesus welcomes even weak faith?
6. What does it mean practically to “come to Jesus with the faith we have”? What does that look like in relation to...
- ...church?
 - ...prayer?
 - ...Bible?
 - ...other Christian people?
7. What in your life are you unsure that Jesus has the power to overcome? How does this story in [Luke 8](#) correct that uncertainty? How might that change the way you view that thing in your life?
8. What's the difference between Jesus being *able* to do something and Jesus *promising* to do something? What's the danger in mixing those two things up?
9. How is the promise of Heaven (where there's no sickness and no death) meant to encourage and strengthen you right now?
10. How might the promise of Heaven help you when talking to those who *don't* believe (but who are enduring some kind of hardship)?