

Community Reflection Guide



JESUS HAS NOT LEFT THE BUILDING

TEXT: ACTS 9:32-43, LUKE 5:17-26; 8:40-54

SERIES: ACTS - ENJOYING GOD & ENGAGING HIS MISSION

See the parallel passages in Acts and Luke:

Acts 9:32-35 Peter and healing of Aneas >>>> Luke 5:17-26 Jesus and paralytic through the roof

Acts 9:36-43 Peter and healing of Dorcas >>>> Luke 8:40-56 Jesus and Jairus' daughter and the unclean woman

What are you willing to do to bring your friends to Jesus? What gets in the way? Preoccupation with your own life? The awkwardness of having unbelievers around your Community and friends and gatherings? Are we willing to risk relationships and embarrassment for people hear the gospel? Do we really love our not-yet-believing "paralyzed" friends if we are not?

Read Acts 9:32-35 and Luke 5:17-26 – Friends lowering lame man through the roof

Jesus said: And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

That's a big statement. No other religious leader says this; Mohammed, Krishna, Buddha. They don't say, "Your sins are forgiven." They say, "We've uncovered this process by which you can go through these rituals and routines and sufferings and potential reincarnations and pay God back, and maybe someday he will forgive you if you earn it." It's a big process. Here Jesus says, "Forgiven. I can just forgive."

Do your not-yet-believing friends know this about Jesus? He is a forgiver and a healer, not a system. How have they been offended at this?

Read Acts 9:36-42 and Luke 8:40-56 Jairus' daughter and Unclean woman

Now, whom will Jesus serve? This is the constant weight and burden of ministry for those who tend to God's people and love them.

Have you been aware of this challenge for your leaders or the friends you look to for help? How easy has it been to think only of your own crises? When challenged to be bitter or frustrated, can you pray for them instead? If not, what does this reveal about your current "functional" source of comfort?

Unclean woman – Jesus has healed her and made her clean.

She's desperate in that she has tried every form of treatment imaginable. To make it worse, according to Jewish Law she would have been ceremonially unclean. So no one has touched her in 12 years. No hugs, no kisses, no hands to hold. She couldn't be in crowds b/c of her state of uncleanness, she couldn't go to the Temple or synagogue to worship. She is truly alone in her suffering. She heard that Jesus had come into town.

She pressed through a place she wasn't supposed to be and fell to her knees and in faith touched Jesus. That's what faith is, reaching out to Jesus. God has given her a great gift to trust that if she reaches out and can just touch His Son, she'll be healed. When she does God poured out His power in her through faith. Believing in Jesus is how the power of God gets unleashed in your life.

This is the only person that Jesus ever calls 'daughter'. She doesn't have a dad that has gone through hell and high water to see her healed. She has to fend for herself. Some of you ladies can relate to this. I want you to hear Jesus say the same thing to you that he said to her, "Daughter." Jesus takes that fatherly place in your life. He becomes that man who gives you identity, and affection, and security, and protection. He becomes that man you go to in time of need, and he lovingly, affectionately cares for you.

Jairus' Daughter

How do you relate to his woman? Do you feel unclean and rejected by others? the length of desire and suffering? Inability to fix yourself? Alone?

How does her healing encourage you? Faith is a gift and how God's power comes to us. Jesus does the impossible.

Jesus said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping."

Sleep is a metaphor. Death is ultimately not simply a physical reality. Death is ultimately a spiritual reality. Some of

In our suffering, do we respond with faith or fear. Will you run from Jesus or will you run to Jesus? What does your response say about what you really believe?

you in here are physically alive but spiritually dead, living apart from Jesus. When you die physically, you will experience eternal death...hell..eternal separation from God. The Bible uses the language of sleep when the believer dies; that the body goes into the ground, and the soul goes to be with the Lord until the day that the Lord Jesus returns, and he commands the soul to reenter and occupy the body; that the soul and the body are rejoined in a glorified resurrected body patterned after the resurrection body of Jesus.

So this miracle is a picture of the resurrection of the dead for all of the children of God, that when we die, and because of sin we all will, for those who belong to Jesus and are the children of God, on the other side of death, you will see the face of Jesus, you will feel the touch of Jesus.

What is Luke saying in Acts 9 with these stories about Peter?

Do we live with this kind of perspective and comfort about the physical death of believers? Who do you know has lost or is losing a loved one and needs to hear this hope from you?

Jesus Christ is still continuing the same ministry that He had on earth except now He works through His people empowered by His Spirit. Jesus is still alive. Jesus still heals. Jesus still cleanses. Jesus still forgives. Jesus still raises from the dead. He does that through the speaking of His Word about His Son Jesus empowered by His Holy Spirit through the mouths of His People, the Church.

These accounts, as great as they are, aren't the big miracle. The big miracle is that Jesus heals, cleanses and raises our souls from the dead and forgives. Jesus forgives sin, cleanses defilement, and raises spiritually dead souls to life. Those men who were paralyzed, that woman who was bleeding, Talitha and Tabitha who were dead all lacked the power to save themselves physically in the same way that each of us does spiritually. Spiritually, we're just like all of these people that Luke records. We have to be saved, healed, resurrected from the dead by someone outside of ourselves.

Which story do we identify most with right now?

- **Jesus raising the girl from the dead: How does Jesus bring us to life? (use scripture) (we are not in the dog house, but the morgue)**
- **The unclean woman: There's shame, defilement, and you can't make it go away. When she reached out and touched Jesus. She did not make Jesus unclean...He cleansed her. How does Jesus cleanse us? (use scripture) (we don't make him unclean, but his righteousness is imputed to us)**
- **The paralytic needing sins forgiven? How does Jesus forgive our sin? (use scripture) (without compromising his just nature and just over looking sin?)**

Which of these stories would resonate the most with someone you are “sent to”? Could you retell this story and draw out the gospel truth that would relate to them and us?

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven: in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.