

The Story Church - 2.12.23

A Physician and the Facts: *Luke's Pursuit of the Truth*

Part 11 of 22: **4 Ways We Come to Jesus**

SERIES INTRO: He was a doctor - a scientist trained to do meticulous research in pursuit of the truth. He was also an educated Gentile who became the only non-Jewish author of the Bible. And in the middle of the first century AD, this man devoted his life to answering one question: ***Can Christianity be trusted?***

His name was Luke, and after years of researching the extraordinary claims being made by a small, highly motivated sect called *The Way*, he became an unlikely disciple of Jesus. How could a reasonable researcher come to believe that a 1st Century Jewish rabbi who was executed by the Romans is the living Son of God? We'll explore this question and more at The Story Church throughout this 22-week series as we follow Luke's logic from the Christmas manger to Easter's empty tomb.

REFLECTION QUESTION: We typically use the phrase "a come-to-Jesus meeting" to refer to a scary or intimidating encounter with an authority figure, but this idiom is rooted in the historically Christian idea that, one day, everyone will stand face-to-face with Jesus. So, as a way of kick-starting your personal reflection and/or your group's discussion, ***what is the first thing you think you'll say or do when your "come-to-Jesus meeting" happens in the hereafter?***

Today's reading (Luke 8:40-56) picks up just as Jesus was sailing across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum after preaching in Samaria. **Think for a moment about the kind of man that Jesus really was. How do you think people today mischaracterize Jesus in terms of his personality and identity?**

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

Who was Jairus, and what brought him to Jesus that day?

What kinds of circumstances cause people to *desperately* come to Jesus, and what are they typically searching for?

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

What do we know about this woman? What brought her to Jesus that day?

What circumstances lead people to feel *disappointed* when they come to Jesus? What are they usually hoping for?

Luke 8:45-48 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." 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. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Why was the woman trembling?

What was the significance of Jesus calling her his "daughter"?

Luke 8:49-56 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." Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." 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. Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Who were those wailing and mourning people at Jairus' house, and why did they laugh?

What circumstances lead people to be disrespectful or arrogant when they come to Jesus?

The disciples were also present with Jesus throughout today's reading. How had they come to Jesus (see Luke 5:1-11), and what roles did they play in today's reading from Luke 8:40-56?

What circumstances lead people to become disciples who follow Jesus?

So, in this story we have 4 people/groups: the DESPERATE father, the DISAPPOINTED woman, the DISRESPECTFUL cynics, and the DISCIPLES of Jesus. Which person or group do you find the most relatable, and why?

If you don't yet consider yourself to be a disciple of Jesus, what circumstances would need to change in order for you to become one?

What does today's reading reveal to you about the heart and personality of Jesus Christ?

This week's Daily Reading Plan:

Monday 2/13 - Luke 9:18-36

Tuesday 2/14 - Luke 9:37-50

Wednesday 2/15 - Luke 9:51-62

2/16 - Luke 10:1-24

2/17 - Luke 10:25-42

** Find the full February Reading Plan at thestory.church/resources*

