

Lesson 7 10 September, 2017

Jesus Christ, the Healer of Men

Lesson Scope: [Luke 8:22-56](#)

References in brackets refer to Luke 8 unless otherwise noted.

Lesson Focus

The sea voyage that introduces this lesson scope was terrifying for the disciples. Jesus and the disciples had been crossing the Sea of Galilee when a storm struck and threatened to sink their boat. In fear, the disciples cried out, "Master, master, we perish." Jesus' searching question "Where is your faith?" was not to belittle; rather, it characterized His loving concern for needy men.

The three experiences in this lesson confirm Christ's ability and help us measure the saving quality of our faith. Devils, disease, and death remain a real part of human experience and require living faith for complete victory. Christ is able to free man from every bondage. Faith links needy man to divine resources.

At various times throughout history God used miracles to reveal Himself in a special way. Three of the most outstanding periods were in the times of Moses, Elijah and Elisha, and Christ. Moses revealed God's Word through the Law. Elijah and Elisha represented God's Word through prophecy. Christ Himself remains the supreme revelation of truth to mankind.

Jesus asked, "Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?" (Luke 5:23). Though we may not see miracles of the same nature in our day, God is no less capable today. The greatest miracles of our time are spiritual. Christ's time on earth reflected this shift. Many times when people acknowledged their physical need, He also used the opportunity to minister to their spiritual needs. We have such astounding evidence of Christ's sufficiency to redeem man that we do not insist on "physical" miracles as further proof of His power. Yet God at times does choose to grant such miracles even today.

We may ask ourselves if our faith is great enough to move mountains or experience healing. More needful than sizing up our faith, however, is focusing on its object. Faith in our faith accomplishes nothing. Faith in Christ makes all things possible (Matthew 19:26).

Lesson Aim: To explain what constitutes saving faith.

Theme Verse: [Mark 5:34](#). And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Lesson Text

Faith in Jesus' Position

[Luke 8:27-39](#)

And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in *any* house, but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. ²⁹ (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) ³⁰ And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. ³¹ And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. ³² And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. ³³ Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. ³⁴ When they that fed *them* saw what was done, they fled, and went and told *it* in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. ³⁶ They also which saw *it* told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. ³⁷ Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again. ³⁸ Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Faith in Jesus' Power

Luke 8:41-48

And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: ⁴² For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. ⁴³ And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, ⁴⁴ Came behind *him*, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. ⁴⁵ And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press *thee*, and sayest thou, Who touched me? ⁴⁶ And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. ⁴⁷ And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.

Faith in Jesus' Promise

Luke 8:49-56

While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's *house*, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. ⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard *it*, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. ⁵¹ And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. ⁵² And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. ⁵³ And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. ⁵⁵ And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. ⁵⁶ And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.

Questions for Study

Faith in Jesus' Position

1. Compare the varied responses to Jesus.
2. How does a high view of Christ promote saving faith?
3. What changes accompany Christ's work of transformation?

Faith in Jesus' Power

4. What happenings in this account likely strengthened this woman's faith?
5. How does public confession strengthen our faith?

Faith in Jesus' Promise

6. What evidence confirms that Jairus accepted Christ's promises?
7. How is saving faith rewarded?

Analyzing the Passage

Healing the sick was a very small part of Jesus' work. This is evidenced repeatedly as He gave each seed of faith an opportunity to grow. Some people may have been tempted to feel rebuffed, but we marvel at how the goodness of God gave each one just what he needed as he clung to His promises by faith.

Satan continues to try desperately to inhabit anyone whose heart is empty (Matthew 12:43-45). We may question how accountable the demoniac was for his actions, but his conversation is proof that he still had the power to choose to follow Jesus.

If we picture a thronging crowd ("compressing"), we will understand the disciples' bewilderment at Jesus' question. We also sympathize with the woman who not only was considered unclean herself, but also was responsible for defiling everyone she brushed by in her effort to touch Jesus (Leviticus 15). Possibly Jesus' words "Thy faith hath made thee whole," were a surprise to someone accustomed to the Levitical cleansing (Leviticus 15:28-31).

Principles and Applications

Faith in Jesus' Position

1. Faith only saves when its object is Jesus the Son of God (8:28). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). No snake bite remedy worked in the wilderness. Only the serpent on the pole, a type of Christ, brought prompt deliverance. The power that snapped the chains that had bound the demoniac yielded to Christ when He set foot in the land.

Satan is trying frantically to promote his purposes because he knows his time is short. His counselors flaunt the name of Christ and steal the hearts of men, even through so-called "Christian" institutions. Let us cry out for deliverance lest we too become bound by Satan. Jesus' power remains sufficient for us today.

2. Saving faith results in a new nature (8:35). What a miracle of trans-

formation God performs when we come to Him in repentance! As we separate ourselves from the lusts of the world, He grants us to be partakers of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4). A changed life is unmistakable proof of genuine faith.

3. Saving faith produces a desire for spiritual fellowship (8:38). Men of faith anticipate being with Jesus. Our faith is strengthened as we share with others who have the same love. "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind" (Philippians 2:2). We also find added security and protection to "resist the devil" as a group.

4. Saving faith takes the Great Commission seriously (8:39). Even those who have rejected Jesus remain candidates for the Gospel message. After all, were we not also "sporting on destruction's brink"? "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8).

Faith in Jesus' Power

5. Saving faith realizes the limits of human ability and reaches out to Jesus for help (8:41-44). When we are physically afflicted, is our first thought "Which doctor is most highly reputed?" We should consider the ordinance of anointing before our last resort. If we first consult the Great Physician, He can guide our decisions. If we cast our cares on Him, our hearts can be at rest even if His will is to grant added grace rather than healing.

No man can rise to spiritual victory through human strength. Only as we repent of our sinfulness and allow God's Spirit to work His nature in us can we truly live in victory.

6. Saving faith accepts God's timing (8:42). Jesus' power is not limited to time and sense. Faith turns emergencies into faith-building experiences. Waiting on God is an excellent opportunity for growth. "Stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD:... fear not" (2 Chronicles 20:17). "In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15).

7. Saving faith enables one to publicly confess his faith in Jesus (8:46-48). Maybe it is the past that we have been delivered from. Perhaps we can share our confidence that He will help us find victory today. Perhaps we just humbly acknowledge our continual need of His imparted faithful virtue. Jesus is glorified as we testify of His power. He grants His witnesses true peace and good comfort.

Faith in Jesus' Promise

8. Saving faith steps forward with Christ even in the midst of deep uncertainty (8:49-52). Just as Abraham, "who against hope believed in hope" (Romans 4:18), we cling to Jesus' words, "Fear not: believe only." This

does not mean that God will restore the riches that took wings, or that we ignore the realities of sickness, death, or other disappointments. Rather, God would have us believe that the void He allowed in our life He is perfectly able to fill.

9. Saving faith enables us to triumph over death (8:54, 55). To our human perspective, death is so final. But it must give way to life in the presence of Christ. "If Jesus shine upon the soul, / How blissful then to die! / Since He has ris'n that once was slain, / Ye die in Christ / To live again." —Thomas Hastings

Important Teachings

1. Faith only saves when its object is Jesus the Son of God (8:28).
2. Saving faith results in a new nature (8:35).
3. Saving faith produces a desire for spiritual fellowship (8:38).
4. Saving faith takes the Great Commission seriously (8:39).
5. Saving faith realizes the limits of human ability and reaches out to Jesus for help (8:41-44).
6. Saving faith accepts God's timing (8:42).
7. Saving faith enables one to publicly confess his faith in Jesus (8:46--48).
8. Saving faith steps forward with Christ even in the midst of deep uncertainty (8:49-52).
9. Saving faith enables us to triumph over death (8:54-55).

Answers to Questions

1. Compare the varied responses to Jesus.

The devils wanted nothing to do with Jesus. The swine feeders fled. The multitude responded with great fear and besought Jesus to depart. The man "out of whom the devils were departed" sat at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind. He besought Jesus that he might be with Him.

2. How does a high view of Christ promote saving faith?

A high view of Christ recognizes man's efforts to control the spirit of man as futile. It allows Christ to enter and not simply limit the destructive tendencies, but to totally transform the man into a useful vessel. It forms the foundation on which thankfulness is built. There is no room for "Legion" in the heart that rejoices in the liberating power of Christ's resurrection!

3. What changes accompany Christ's work of transformation? A change of behavior will show that Christ is now in control of our lives. We will love the assembly of the righteous. Our clothing and countenance will testify of

the change wrought within. "The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad" (Psalm 126:3).

4. What happenings in this account likely strengthened this woman's faith? She had seen the insufficiency of men while reaching the end of her own means. Her budding expressions of faith brought immediate and complete healing. She felt the all-seeing eye of God probing deeper than her physical need. To humbly return to Christ for mercy confirmed her devotion and allowed her to receive His promises of "everlasting consolation and good hope through grace" (2 Thessalonians 2:16).

5. How does public confession strengthen our faith?

Confessing Christ is essential to peace with the Father (Matthew 10:32). A hidden faith cannot grow or glorify God. To take a stand publicly calls others to decision. It frees us from the blood of other men's souls. Our faith is reproduced in our children only as we "declare plainly that [we] seek a country" (Hebrews 11:14).

6. What evidences confirm that Jairus accepted Christ's promises?

Mark 5 records Jairus's implicit trust in Christ's ability to heal his daughter. Jesus put all the scoffers out of the house, but allowed Jairus and the maid's mother to remain. Jesus promised the girl's revival only on the basis of belief.

7. How is saving faith rewarded?

God gives the believer power to become His child. Faith in His promises helps us recognize that even difficult times work together for good to them that love Him. Faith makes it possible to please God and to know our sins are forgiven. Faith allows us to receive physical and spiritual healing (James 5:14-15).

Summarizing the Lesson

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee I find,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
—Charlotte Elliott

Research Guide

Closely compare the parallel accounts in Matthew 8 and Mark 5. For example, Matthew 8:28 says two men met Jesus. Meditate on the teachings in these accounts.