

Reflection Questions: Luke 8:40-56

For the message, "The Masters Touch" given by Pastor John Ferguson at Mercy Hill Church in Bryan/College Station, Texas, on January 26, 2020

These reflection questions are designed to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the message, go to MercyHillBCS.org/resources/messages.

INTRODUCTION

Pray. Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

Read the Scripture text: Luke 8:40-56

40 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 around 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.

Bottom Line:

- We are being summoned to fall at the feet of Jesus, the world true King, who comes with healing in his hands.
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Let's get started...

- How often do you reflect on your own mortality? And has that frequency remained the same or changed for you, and why?

QUESTIONS

1. Let's think about how this text applies to our lives as individuals.

- Put yourself in the sandals of Jairus and this woman with the issue of blood. Both got to the point when they decided to arise and go to Jesus. Imagine their emotions. What did each of them have to overcome in order to get to Jesus? What might have kept them back? What compelled them to go?
- Jesus told those weeping at the house of Jairus that his daughter was not dead, but only sleeping. If we're tracking with Luke and the early movement of Jesus, how should we be tracking on Jesus' redefinition of death? How should this give us comfort and hope if we trust Jesus who claimed to be the resurrection and the life? Does it impact the way you think about death?
- In the Gospel of Luke, the theme of sitting or falling at the feet of Jesus is a common theme (cf. 8:35, 41, 47; 10:39). Luke is obviously trying to communicate something here. What would it look like for us today to find ourselves "at the feet of Jesus"? Try to be as practical as you can in your answer.

2. Let's think about how this text applies to us as a community of Jesus' followers.

- What comes to your mind when you imagine a group of Jesus' followers embodying the teaching of Jesus and his disciples that death has now been redefined as mere sleep? Read the Apostle Paul's instructions to the Thessalonian followers of Jesus:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers' about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep (1 Thess. 4:13-14).

How does Paul balance grief and hope in this passage? And how can we honor the grief that death causes, while believing in proper hope and confidence that death has been transformed for the believer?

3. Let's think about how this text applies to our city.

- How is a text like this that Luke the Physician gives us "Good News" for a place like Bryan / College Station? In other words, how does the good news about Jesus in his life, death, and resurrection challenge a place that tells itself that this life is all there is or the life may go on after death, but no one really knows?