

For the week of July 24, 2016
Pastor: Corrie Gustafson

Life from the Fringe

Third week in the series "Stories of Welcome in the Gospel of Luke."

Luke 8:40-56

A dying girl. An unclean woman. Who or what can rescue them from the edges of death and despair? Today we see power go out from Jesus, power that leads to peace and healing. Some might say these two females weren't worthy of Jesus' attention, but his actions tell a different story.

Discussion Questions:

1. Often we imagine that Jesus has super powers like those of comic book characters. In Luke 8:45-46, Jesus perceived that power has gone out from him, but he didn't know who touched him. What questions are raised—or what insights come to you—about Jesus in this verse?
2. Discuss the contrast of faith in Jesus between the bleeding woman and Jairus/the disciples/the crowd.
3. This story seems to indicate that faith/belief in Jesus' power to heal leads to healing, (especially when read in light of Mark 6:1-6). But there are also plenty of examples in the Gospels of Jesus healing without a prerequisite of faith (e.g., John 18:10-11; Matthew 14:14). What do you believe about physical healing? How have the Gospels shaped your beliefs?
4. Read John 8:56. Why would Jesus ask the parents to keep this healing a secret? (And, really how could they do that when it was said in public that she had died?)