

## DISCOVERY BIBLE GROUP 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

**Luke 8: 40 – 56**

Encounters with Jesus – Jairus and the Woman

### **Background:**

Where did the sick go for care during Jesus' time?

Were there healthcare facilities?

What was a "routine day" like for Jesus?

Luke records healing in detail in the gospel.

Luke records the names of many people and how each played a role in furthering the mission of Jesus on earth.

God's methodology is people. Willing and available. Jesus is central to everything. All eyes focussed on Him.

### **Looking Back:**

What catches your attention in this passage? Miracle? Jesus and his compassion.

Life transforming encounters.

### **Looking Up:**

Jairus, Jesus and the unnamed woman.

### **Jairus:**

Leader in a local synagogue. A "Jew". An insider, familiar with laws and traditions. He could physically reach Jesus. Encounter 1!

He was in a desperate situation. He came to Jesus. Fell at his feet, pleading to come home to heal his only daughter who was dying. 12 years old. A significant age in Jewish custom for a female child. –

"Bat Mitzvah". A girl becomes a responsible adult member of the Jewish community.

Jesus immediately agrees and goes with him.

Interrupted by the second encounter! An indirect one. An unseen one.

Must have been an anxious wait for Jairus and the family and friends. Life of his dear daughter was in a balance!

### **Unknown woman:**

Little known about her background. She was in the big crowd. Desperate to get near him touch him if she could. An outsider. A woman. An issue with bleeding – legally and ceremonially unclean. She cannot be in the crowd. We read elsewhere had this issue for 12 years, suffered enough, spent enough, tried enough still yearning for a cure. Has heard of Jesus. Now he is in town. Determined and thirsting for this encounter.

She pushed through the crowd and touches the edge of his cloak! Cured instantly. Jesus felt that touch in the crowd. A touch that released healing power from his body.

He asks the disciples "who touched me"?

The woman realised she cannot hide it from Jesus. With trembling falls at the feet of Jesus.

There must have been a deadly silence in the crowd! Jesus "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace."

She is now complete – a daughter, healed, and a whole new life for a woman ahead of her.

**Jairus:** encounter continues. Verse 49 to 56

The child is dead. Jesus turns the event into his mission. A divine delay to demonstrate that death is temporary. Compares death in our physical body to sleep.

**Jesus:**

Willing to help. Willing to come along when we are willing to ask him.

He was willing to be interrupted from his routine and plans. He was focussed on his Father's plan and mission on earth. He is never in a hurry. He recognises faith. He rewards faith and encourages faith.

**Lessons learnt:**

1. Every event and encounter is not only a miracle. A revelation of Jesus. He is the centre. He is "centripetal" not "centrifugal". Draw to Jesus.
2. The outsider and the insider – Jesus is the cross to bring them to God. The divine intersection giving access to all. A revelation of the Father's will. Jews and Gentiles.
3. A revelation of Jesus' mission. Touched the unclean. Willing to be vulnerable.
4. A revelation of Spirit's timing. The spirit touched both women. The impact was massive. A dead risen. The healing power witnessed by a thirsty and weary crowd.
5. Common theme: Son is looking for faith. Spirit is looking for thirst. Father is looking for unity.

Hebrews 11:16 – Faith. Faith comes by word 2 Timothy 4: 1-3

Matthew 5:6, Luke 1: 53, John 7:37 – Thirst

Psalm 133: 1 – 3, Acts 4: 24, 1 Corinthians 1: 10 - Unity

**Looking ahead:**

How do you view the encounters in daily walk?

How do you view the interruptions to your day?

Do you treat differently the "insiders" and the "outsiders"?

Do we have a parochial (trivial, small, specific circles) outlook? Are we looking to widen it?

In our fellowships – will he find unity, faith, and thirst?

We all need to have a life transforming encounter with Jesus. Then carry it in us.

Those encounters should mark and transform our life for ever.

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**Reflection from the Discovery Bible Study on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – by a health care support worker.**

Reflection from teaching on **Luke 8:40-48 – Encounters with Jesus – Jairus and Unknown woman**

We think we are people of power, knowledge and means.

Until we are tested through illness, loss, accident, trauma, tragedy, or helplessness.

We can try relying on our accumulated wealth, status, power, and authority.

But will it give us the outcome we want?

We may seek a multitude of physicians for healing.

Or seek people of high stature and authority to extend or pardon our life.

When we reach our lowest point in life, will we surrender in humility.

Will we ask and reach out to Jesus in our lowliness, brokenness, and sadness.

Will Jesus be willing to acknowledge and help us?

Or will he reject and shame us because of our sin?

Will he tarry and delay until we beg for his help, grace, and mercy.

No, Jesus is always willing and available to help.

To stop what he is doing, to take time to listen, to hear what is in our heart.

He is willing to be interrupted.

He is willing to let go of power and status to come from heaven to earth. To be a mere mortal in the flesh to come to our aid, meet our needs and to save us.

He is willing to withstand testing, ridicule, mocking, violence, and humiliation for our sake.

He will release His power to heal us. He alone has that power.

Are we willing to be available to him.

To stop and take time to listen to his heart. To be available in serve to him to help those in need and distress.

Will we be gentle, patient, understanding and compassionate like him towards others.

Are we willing to let go of our power, status and willing, to humble ourselves.

To meet the meek and lowly where they are at in their vulnerability and fragility.

Are we willing to let go of all our earthly wealth, power, and status to come to the Lord.

To receive his heavenly richness, power, and authority to build his kingdom here on earth.

I was blessed and encouraged. I look forward to applying these to my life.