

THE BIG IDEA: Desperate times call for divine measures.**The Take-Off**

It's been a few weeks since we were in Luke, so let's do a quick recap of the series "True Story" so that we're all on the same page and ready to continue.

Our culture made the hashtag #truestory popular as a way of saying "whatever I just said is absolutely the truth," and that's exactly what the Gospel of Luke is all about.

Dr. Luke had been approached by a wealthy Gentile named Theophilus and been commissioned to research the outlandish and almost unbelievable stories about Jesus to find out if they were, indeed, true.

The book we have in the Bible named Luke is - in essence - Luke hash tagging #truestory about who Jesus claimed to be and what Jesus claimed to have done.

Bottom line? Luke shows us that the unbelievable became the undeniable, and what we read of Jesus is a True Story.

That brings us to the final part in chapter 8. If you'll remember back, this chapter has been all about authority, which is a theme in Luke because he wrote this to Gentiles who needed to see that Jesus is the Son of God.

It started with the authority of Jesus' word, and then we saw his word exercise authority over nature, over demons, and now we'll see its authority over sickness and death.

It shouldn't surprise any of us that the presence of sickness and death means that we're going to meet 2 very desperate people, but before we meet them, let's talk through the concept of desperation.

A lot of us would think of desperation in a negative light, and that desperation is a sign of weakness. I agree.

But the question isn't should we be desperate? The question is will we allow our desperation to drive us to Jesus?

Let me give you an example that all the unmarried people will immediately resonate with: eHarmony recently shared an advice column for people using their service entitled "7 Signs of a Desperate Dater" and included these: they are clingy, they need constant relationship status updates, they drop their friends, they drop their standards.

Desperation can lead to bad choices, but the desperate people we'll meet in Luke 8 are going to allow their desperation to drive them to something better.

Let's jump right in and meet the first one:

1. A desperate man

- a. Jesus returned and found a crowd waiting - Jesus never got a break, did He?
- b. He went for some quiet time and met a crazy demon-possessed man, delivered him, got back in the boat and then stepped out and - BAM! - another crowd waiting, expecting.
- c. In that crowd was a dad who was losing his daughter.
- d. I pray that I never know that desperation, but he did. His 12 year old girl was dying, and that circumstance made Jairus desperate.
- e. Desperate enough to do things that synagogue rulers didn't typically do
 - religious leaders didn't often fall at the feet of Jesus
 - religious leaders didn't often beg anybody for anything
 - religious leaders didn't often wait for anything, and yet this man got interrupted by our second desperate person

2. A desperate woman

- a. As Jesus was making His way to help Jairus' 12 year old daughter, He isn't alone.
- b. There is a crushing crowd of wall to wall people all around Him, and there's a woman in the crowd that was desperate.
- c. We learn some about her here from Dr. Luke, but we learn even more about her from the accounts found in Matthew and Mark.
 - She's been bleeding for 12 years (as long as Jairus' daughter has been alive)
 - According to Levitical law, she's been unclean and untouched for 12 years
 - We know from Mark 5 that, not only has she spent all she had on possible treatment, but she's actually gotten WORSE under the care of doctors
 - She's sick, she's broke, she's hopeless, she's alone, and she's desperate
- d. Just like Jairus' desperation led him to reach out to Jesus, this woman's desperation led her to Jesus, too

- e. This unnamed woman knew that her only hope was to touch Jesus
- f. Not be near Jesus or around Jesus or even to brush up to Jesus, but touch Him
- g. She needed a breakthrough, and so she decided to push through
- h. She pushed through people, and potential rejection and embarrassment
- i. Don't ever think we'll experience breakthrough without pushing through to Jesus
- j. She did, and we must, and look what happened when she did!
- k. Immediately her bleeding stopped, and immediately Jesus stopped.

3. The Savior of desperate people

- a. If you can relate to desperation, then I want you to meet the Savior of desperate people
- b. This woman met Him, and He changed her. He didn't just heal her, He changed her.
- c. He asked who had touched Him, and called her out so that He could transform her identity.
- d. He wanted everyone - including herself - to see that she wasn't the unclean, unloved bleeding woman
- e. Now, she was whole, and she was wanted. In fact, Jesus called her daughter, and she's the ONLY woman Jesus ever calls daughter.
- f. He wanted people to know that there is a difference between being around Jesus and touching Jesus
- g. And then, He showed that same grace to a father who lost his daughter because Jesus got held up
- h. You ever feel like that? Like everyone else gets the blessing but you get left out?
- i. You need to meet the Savior that Jairus met - a Savior who refuses to leave things undone.
- j. And so Jesus went and raised a 12 year old daughter from the dead.

The Landing

What I want us to see - what we must see - is that desperate times don't call for us to be better, or stronger, or wealthier. This woman and Jairus knew that nothing in themselves would fix their desperation.

They knew that they HAD to bring their desperation to Jesus, because desperate times call for divine measures. Desperation results in activation, and when Jesus is activated, it leads to transformation.

So this morning, like a desperate man and a desperate woman, reach out to the Savior of desperate people and let His power change your purpose.

Let His power transform you and give you hope that you didn't have, and acceptance that you've always craved.

Let Him call you daughter, child, family.

Reach out, and let Jesus pour His power in.

Let's pray.