

AF A9 BIBLE STUDY: “Life Restored from Despair” in Luke 8

Scripture of Lesson: Luke’s Gospel 8: 40-56

1. The Lord heals a woman who had chronic hemorrhage

- a. People were waiting for the Lord and His disciples to return to Capernaum area, which was the center of His ministry. Why were they waiting for His return? There was much need and many people there already believed in Him as the Messiah. When we have faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and we recognize our needs, they earnestly desire to have His presence in us and among us.
- b. What was the life status of this woman with issue of blood [chronic hemorrhage] for 12 years. She had wasted all her material possession with the doctors who could not heal her. Her hemorrhage problem perhaps worsened over the years. Life was being sapped away from her body and life. Hope of a normal living was being depleted each day. Hope of gaining her health was nowhere in sight except in the Messiah. She came to Him and touched His clothing with utter desperation.
- c. “Who touched me?” Jesus asked although He knew who did. He simply wanted to meet this woman who was helped by His power and give her an opportunity to establish a relationship. What relationship was established? “Daughter, be of good comfort: your faith has made you whole; go in peace.” She was helped by the Messiah, God of Israel, who saw this woman as a daughter of His people. God wants to heal us and send us forth in His comfort and peace. Let us go to our Savior and reach out for His touch so that His divine power can make us whole from our sins and maladies that have been tormenting and destroying our life.

2. The Lord restores the life of a dead girl

- a. There is a strong contrast between the attitudes of the people and the Messiah regarding the dying girl, the only child of Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue in the area. The attitudes of the people were:
 - i. “Your daughter is dead: do not trouble the teacher.” [v. 49]
 - ii. They laughed at Him in scorn. [v. 53]
- b. The Lord had a purpose in resuscitating this girl. His remarks were of command to believe and trust in the power and plan of God.
 - i. “Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.” [v. 50]
 - ii. “Weep not; she is not dead, but sleeps.” [v. 52]
 - iii. “Maid, arise.”
 - iv. “Give her some food.”
- c. This contrast between the attitudes of the unbelieving world and the believing Christian world are still very vivid. The unbelieving world tells people it is of no use to go to God. They tell people there is no hope beyond what the material world, the medical science and the social programs can provide. Trust in the human abilities and the human organizations, but not in God’s power to help. They present a picture of no hope, of despondence, of failures of life that cannot be mended and of life that is ruined beyond any hope of restoration.

3. Healing and restoration found in Jesus

- a. When life has come to its seeming end and you have not found any hope of help; when all your resources are drained and you have little strength to seek help, the Savior Jesus comes to your way. All you need to do is “to believe only and you shall be made whole.” “Fear not, just believe,” He

says. And as you reach out to touch Him, miraculous power comes to you from His divine presence and makes you whole. And you find your life changed to complete wholeness, restored to the way God created you.

- b. The goal of the Gospel of Jesus Christ today is the same –to bring life to this dying world, to bring restoration to the broken, sick lives with no hope, where this world’s marvels come to no avail. Jesus calls to the dying world today, “Come, fear not, just believe in My power.”

Discussion topics:

1. *Share how Jesus Christ has made you whole. Share how someone around you has been made whole, either physically or spiritually, because he/she met Jesus.*
2. *Should we go to a Christian minister for our physical illnesses instead of a doctor? Does the gospel of Christ provide physical healings to ill people as it did in the first century?*