

DESPERATE FOR GOD TO MOVE

Today, as we continue in our "Desperate for God to Move" series, we turn to Luke 8. In this series, we're looking throughout the Bible at people desperate for God to move in their lives. So far, in this series, we've talked about being desperate for the presence of God, being desperate for God when we're in the middle of uncertainty when we need God to move in our family, and when we find ourselves off track. Today, we will discuss being "Desperate for God When I Need Healing." Perhaps nothing causes more urgency in our desperation for God than when something is wrong with our health. The reality of life is that we live in a broken world, and apart from Jesus returning, all of us will eventually experience the deuteriation of our bodies. Our question today is, how can this desperation drive us to God?

Key Passage: Luke 8:40-48

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do people often feel desperate for God during times of illness?

Illness brings a heightened sense of vulnerability, reminding us that we have physical limits and mortality. This desperation drives us to seek God's help, as in Luke 8. Physical challenges prompt a deeper reliance on God for healing.

2. What are the four reasons we get sick, and how do they help us understand illness?

(1) We live in a fallen world. On one level, we're aware of this reality, but we often overlook it until we're forced to deal with it. This isn't Heaven. We will get sick.

(2) We make sinful choices. Sinful choices affect our health in different ways. This can include poor choices regarding our diet. 1 Corinthians speaks about taking the Lord's Supper while in sin, and some have gotten sick and even died.

(3) We experience a Satanic attack. Job is the ultimate example where God allowed Satan to attack his health as long as he didn't kill him. We have other examples where people in the gospels appear sick only to have a demon cast out of them.

(4) We are placed in a position to see the glory of God. One of the most powerful things a lost world will ever see is a Christian who walks through cancer or another health challenge with deep faith and confidence in the Lord. John 9 records the story of a blind man who was blind from birth and healed by Jesus so the glory of God could be displayed.

3. How does the story of the woman with the issue of blood show the importance of faith in healing?

The woman believed touching Jesus' garment would heal her, demonstrating her faith. Jesus acknowledged that her faith made her well, highlighting the role of trust in God's power during desperate health situations (Luke 8:48).

4. Why did Jesus ask, "Who touched me?" when the crowd was pressing around Him?

Jesus was aware of the woman's intentional touch of faith, not just a random contact in the crowd. He asked to draw attention to the faith that healed her and to engage with her personally (Luke 8:45-46).

5. How does the woman's response to being healed teach us about humility and fear in approaching God? What does Jesus' response to the woman teach us about His character?

The woman came trembling and fell before Jesus after realizing she was healed. This shows her humility and fear but also highlights that God meets us with grace when we approach Him in desperation (Luke 8:47-48).

Jesus' response, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace," shows His tenderness, mercy, and grace. He didn't rebuke her but affirmed her faith, showing that Jesus values personal faith and offers peace and healing (Luke 8:48).

6. What can we learn from the faith of Jairus when he asked Jesus to heal his daughter?

Jairus's willingness to publicly fall before Jesus in desperation shows the bold, persistent faith that moves God. Even when he received news of his daughter's death, Jesus urged him to "only believe," teaching that faith should be unwavering even in the face of devastating news (Luke 8:49-50).

7. Why does Jesus sometimes perform miracles in secret, like when He raised Jairus' daughter?

Jesus told Jairus' family not to tell others about the miracle. This may reflect His priority on the message of the gospel over the miracles, emphasizing that His primary mission was spiritual salvation, not just physical healing (Luke 8:56).

8. How does Luke 8 encourage us to trust Jesus when we face health challenges, whether or not immediate healing occurs?

The story illustrates that Jesus can absolutely heal us, but trusting Him doesn't always guarantee immediate or earthly healing. Faith in Jesus means believing in His ultimate power to heal, whether in this life or through eternal healing in Heaven (Luke 8:50).

9. How should we respond when we face illness?

Illness can push us closer to Jesus as we recognize our dependence on Him for both physical and spiritual healing. The response should be one of faith, seeking God's presence and trusting Him while utilizing available medical resources, as Jesus can work through prayer and medicine (James 5:14).

10. What about this lesson has challenged you most? What is your biggest takeaway?