
“Do Not Fear; Only Believe”

#36 | Luke 8:40-56

TODD DUGARD | MAY 31, 2015

WARMING UP

1. What would you do in life if you weren't afraid? Why would you do that? What fear is holding you back?

DIGGING IN

Lose the fear and live by faith.

2. Fear . . .

- *Gives up (8:49)*. How does Jairus' messenger respond in a way that communicates “give up”? How does he offer bad counsel beyond the facts? When has fear caused you to give up early on something important?
- *Despairs over (8:50-52)*. In your opinion, is the mourners' behaviour reasonable given the circumstances? Why or why not? How does a fear of the unknown after death lead many people to despair? What hope is there for the followers of Christ? Where would you find this in Scripture?
- *Laughs at (8:53)*. Why do the people laugh at Jesus' statement? How is their “certainty” an issue? Pastor Todd said, “Fear is the opposite of faith when you want to believe, but certainty is the opposite of faith when you don't want to believe.” What does this mean? What are the implications? Why is mocking God a bad idea?

3. Faith . . .

- *Looks for (8:40)*. Why is the crowd “waiting for [Jesus]” and “welcom[ing] him”? What does this indicate? How do we demonstrate a deep desire for more of Jesus? What are some of the signs of our genuine longing?
- *Acts upon (8:41-44)*. How do both Jairus and the woman with the blood condition act upon their faith? Why are they both so distressed? How should this same sort of desperation mark our relationship with God? And how would that cause us to act differently? How does this apply in your life?
- *Tells about (8:45-47)*. Why does Jesus ask the woman to self-identify, to come forward on her own? How is this similar to what Jesus asks of every one of his followers? What are some of the different ways that we can tell others about our faith? How are you doing in this regard?
- *Rests in (8:48)*. What does Jesus' address “Daughter” convey to the woman? What does his statement “Your faith has made you well” mean? Why can she now “go in peace”? How is our rest based on what Jesus has done in our lives, rather than on anything that we have done?
- *Amazes over (8:54-56)*. Why is speculation about the location of the girl's spirit utterly useless? How does this miss the point? None of us has witnessed a dead person being raised to life, but what other aspects of your faith in Jesus bring amazement?

BREAKING OUT

4. Is your life currently being driven more by fear or by faith? How so? What tangible step(s) could you take to move the needle more in the direction of faith? Invite your fellow small group members to help hold you accountable to this.