

The Other Side of the Lake

POINTS TO PONDER:

- Often, the 'death' we may be experiencing in one area of life is due to the fact we have not learned how to conquer the chaos in another area of life.
- The powers of darkness in one area of life can influence all areas of life.
- Faith is given to us to conquer this life and the battles we may face.
- Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith and thus is a perfect example of how faith can influence every area of our lives.
- Will you be influenced by the powers of darkness or the power of faith?

READ LUKE 8:22-56

- Don't read this story as 3 separate stories - the demons, the woman with a blood disorder, and Jairus' daughter who was dying.
- View the story as a complete whole - with Jesus as the central message all along the way.
- There is a lake - on both sides of the shore death resides.
- On the one side is a cemetery - death abounds, darkness abounds. It represents the powers of the world as influenced by Satan's kingdom.
- On the other side of the lake, it teems with life. Crowds pressing around Jesus (religious fervor), and death also abounds - except here, it's a home not a cemetery.
- On one side of the lake is a homeless man chained by demons in a cemetery.
- On the other side of the lake is a man with a home chained by death through his daughter.
- Sandwiched in the middle is the crowds of people.
- Jesus shows us the essence of His faith.
- It's faith that overcomes in every realm. Faith overcomes on the lake. Faith overcomes with the demons. Faith overcomes with the woman. Faith overcomes with the daughter.

3 Areas of Overcoming Faith

1. FAITH TO IMPACT THE DARKNESS.

- Life will rarely come to your home until you get in the boat and go to the other side and face the demons that torment you.
- You have to face the kingdom that comes against you.
- Jesus first battled the kingdom of darkness.
- Only a select few were willing to row with Jesus to the other side.
- Many just want to wait on the banks of the lake and never take authority in the realm of darkness that is trying to conquer them.
- If you remove Jesus, there's no life happening on this side of the lake.
- The man didn't even want to be delivered. Yet, Jesus confronted the issue.

Do you want to be free?

Have you dealt with the demons that are fighting for your life?

Are there certain areas of your past that creep up over and over that try to defeat you?

Why do you think it's important to deal with these 'dark powers' that try to conquer your life?

Is my faith willing to impact the kingdom of darkness?

Are there areas of your life where you are giving Satan free reign?

Are you willing to leave the shore and face the battle in the spirit world?

2. FAITH THAT RESIDES WITHIN

- Jesus was being pressed by the crowds - yet nothing was happening.
- Hundreds surrounded Him and cheered Him - but nothing is being changed.
- This is a perfect example of religion that's absent of power. It's possible to be mentally engaged yet spiritually dead.
- But one woman pulled on the power of Jesus. Her faith activated His power.
- Jesus already had that power to heal resident within His self.
- The power was present inside of Jesus even though many never experienced it.
- Yet, the faith of Jesus, impacted the environment around Him.
- Had Jesus not had faith there would have been NO POWER for the woman to access.
- Jesus power was resident within Him.

What's inside you that people would want to draw from to find healing?

How do you stay built up in your own faith?

How does your faith impact the environment around you?

Are you more swayed by your faith or by your environment?

Do you truly believe that you carry the power within you? How so?

3. FAITH FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE

- Jesus was met by Jairus who needed a miracle of life for his daughter.
- Jairus asks for the possible - Jairus' daughter was dying.
- Along the way, the daughter dies.
- Jesus doesn't just stop and give up.
- Jesus has faith for the impossible.
- This is the true mark of faith. Faith moves you to believe the impossible.

Has there been a time where you had 'faith for the impossible?' Discuss it.

Why is believing for the impossible so difficult?

Why is faith often connected to the logical and less to the impossible?

Why when things seem impossible do we feel God has abandoned us?

Do you have a tendency to give up when things seem impossible?

How do you keep your faith strong when facing impossible circumstances.