Outcasts and Hope

1. Read Luke 8:40-56. The centurion's servant, the widow and her dead son, the sinful woman and the demoniac of the Gerasenes—all of them were desperate or outcasts, but Jesus had compassion on them all. Who are the people in these verses? What is their standing? What are their prospects without Jesus? All of these situations and people are hopeless from a worldly perspective.

2. This miracle of the healing of the hemorrhaging woman seems also to be a fulfillment of Zech 8:20-23, which speaks of foreigners grasping the tassels of a Jew to entreat the favor of the Yahweh and learn about the true God from him. We are never told that the woman is a foreigner. But the context of this whole section has a missionary emphasis: the parable of the sower and the lamp on a stand (8:1-18); Jesus' new definition of kinship (8:19-21); and the sending out of the Twelve (9:1-10).

3. Look at Luke 7:50. What is a similarity between this hemorrhaging woman and the sinful woman of chapter 7? Both emphasis faith. Faith grasps that God incarnate frees from bondage.

4. Whether you're praying for healing, hoping for a loved one to come home, or just trying to hold on when things feel hopeless, our hearts sometimes ache. You might be like Jarius, watching his daughter fade away while Jesus seems to take forever to show up. Or maybe you're like that woman who bled for twelve years, desperate for relief but feeling like God isn't listening. These stories remind us that God's timing isn't ours to figure out. His delays aren't really delays—they're chances to trust, to lean into the uncertainty, and to find strength in the promise that even when He doesn't come when we want Him, He's always right on time. That old gospel hymn says it best:

You can't hurry God, no, you just have to wait.
You gotta trust Him and give Him time, child,
no matter how long it takes.
He's a God you can't hurry,
but He'll be there, don't you worry.
He may not come right when you want Him,
but He's always right on time.

But here's the hard part: How do you keep believing when the pain feels endless? When the wait feels like a cross you can't carry? Can you really hold onto that hope when everything seems to scream, "Where's God?" Can you believe that even in your deepest hurt, He's working something beautiful—shaping you to be more like His Son, turning your suffering into something sacred?
What if, in our waiting, we're not just enduring but being transformed? What if God's "right on time" is not just about when He acts, but about how He uses our suffering to draw us closer to Him? How can we hold onto that hope when the wait feels like forever?

5 In 8:50 Jesus said to Jairus, “Do not fear, only believe, and she will be saved”. What was Jesus asking Jairus to believe?

Jesus was asking Jairus to believe that Jesus could raise his daughter from the dead. He has power over death. Now that takes faith.

What similar thing does Jesus ask us to believe concerning resurrection?

He asks us to believe that His body was resurrected, showing His victory over sin, death, and the devil, and because of it, those of us who have faith will be part of an eternal resurrection. The resurrection of our bodies completely depends upon the resurrection of His body.

6 Why does this account end with Jesus telling the parents to tell no one about what had happened? Contrast this with what happened in Nain (Luke 7:11-17) when Luke tells us the entire region heard about Jesus raising the widow’s son from the dead.

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