

# Peace to Those Far Off and Near

Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 8:40-56



## Big Idea

Christ, in this church, is preaching peace to those who are far off and those who are near. He's bringing the most unlikely people together, and gathering us as one around the cross.

### (1) Am I Desperate? (v. 43)

This woman is as desperate as it gets. So desperate, it seems, she's willing to make a run on the Savior even in the midst of this crowd. This is a daring move. This is a reckless move. This is last-ditch sort of move. "I've got one last shot. I've tried all the physicians. But I haven't tried the Great Physician."

And we should learn from her here. The poverty, the helplessness, the brokenness, the uncleanness—it's a reminder for us of where all humanity sits in relation to God because of our sin. We are more desperate for Him than we could ever know.

### (2) Am I Touching? (vv. 44-47)

This scene should cause us to pause a moment and ask ourselves: "I'm here, but am I really here?" Or, to use the words of this text: "I'm pressing in on Jesus but am I really touching Him?" Do you get the difference? There is a whole lot of pressing in going on around Jesus but only one truly touched Him. Only one in the crowd was coming after Him like He was her only hope. Only one in the crowd felt desperate enough to lay it all on the line and grab hold. Only one in the crowd touched Him with what we might call the "touch of trust".

### (3) Am I Hiding? (v. 48)

I don't know if some of you might feel like you're destined to be a benchwarmer in the kingdom of God. You're content just getting a little grace and going home. You know God loves you, but you don't suppose He very much likes you. He certainly wouldn't want you near or to use you for great things. But this is precisely the sort of thinking Jesus is seeking to come against here with this woman. I just want to focus your attention on that first word: "*Daughter*". A word like this moves some things around inside of you does it not? When you come trembling before Him, loaded up with guilt and shame, sure you're going to get the back of His hand, and instead you're embraced as a cherished member of His family—"Daughter"—That speaks healing into your heart in a way nothing else can.

### (4) Am I Waiting? (vv. 40-42, 49-56)

It looks like it's the end of the line for Jairus and his daughter, but we come to find out that, for Jesus, even something as final as death is mere sleep. Keep waiting on Jesus brothers and sisters. He hasn't forgotten you. He's always right on time.

## Reflection Questions



- When's the last time you really felt desperate for God? Why was this the case? Why isn't this always the case?
- Describe a time in your life when you were merely "pressing in" on Jesus. Now describe a time when you truly touched Him with a "touch of trust". What was different? What would it look like for you to "touch" Jesus in this way as you approach the week ahead?
- Why do you think this woman was hiding from Jesus? Why do you sometimes hide from Him? How does an word from Him like "daughter" or "son" change things for you?