



Who Is This Man...Who Gives Life?

Date: 6th October 2019

Speakers: Becky Stamps & Alexander Venter

Key Verses: Mark 5:21-43, Luke 24:36-43, Romans 8:18-24

Talk Summary:

This week, we looked at the resurrection of Jairus' daughter, how it's interrupted with the story of Jesus healing the woman who had been bleeding for 12 years, and what these stories tell us about the resurrection hope that Christians hold.

The stories of healing of both women show that the resurrection hope is physical, relational and redemptive. Physical, because genuine physical changes take place in both people. Relational because Jesus heals not only the bodies of the people involved but the family or community they are part of (the traumas and social difference of 12 years' waiting). Redemptive because it's not a whole new person that's created, it's the old one that's healed and renewed. Both events also involve faith: the faith of the woman is rewarded with healing, the doubt and fear of Jairus is met with love from a trustworthy Jesus who then walks with him.

We then looked at the resurrected Jesus in Luke 24:36-43, and pulled out some of the similarities between the two. Jesus' resurrection is also physical – he's a real body, touchable and hungry! He's relational, coming to eat and be with his disciples. It's also redemptive: a new body made from the old, recognizable, with scars transformed and made holy. The disciples' fear and doubt is met with kindness and love from Jesus.

We talked about how this impacts our vision of what the new creation, the fully-formed Kingdom of God, will look like when Jesus comes back. We won't be floating around on clouds but physically living in a restored, renewed creation, with redeemed, perfect bodies, in perfect relationship with God.

We ended by talking about how this truth affects our lives now. We know this life will never be as good as the one Jesus has for us, when the perfect comes in his restored Kingdom. The whole creation is groaning

for that day (Rom 8:18). This means that pain and death are pretty much guaranteed for us now, as we wait (sometimes in genuinely terrible suffering) for the return of Jesus and the complete renewal of the world. But because Jesus has already passed through blood, pain and death into life, and he lives inside us by the Spirit, the power of that age to come is also in us, to some extent, now. So we can also pray with confidence, for breakthrough, for healings (both physical and emotional, mental, relational, communal, etc.). We can trust Jesus to come through in any and all circumstances, right away, after a while, and certainly in the future. We are called to live the resurrection every day and to bring some of that age into this world as a foretaste of what's to come.

Group Discussion Questions

Welcome

If you don't eat together as a small group then you might want to start the group with some kind of ice breaker question. Remember to introduce yourselves when there are new people.

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- How is 'Read and Listen' going? What has God been speaking to you about this week? (*Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it*)

Word

We want our thoughts and lives to be shaped by what God says in the Bible. If most of your group weren't there on a Sunday base the discussion on the main passage rather than the talk.

- What from this week's talk/Bible passage stood out to you, and/or you found challenging? Why?
- Follow Jesus: What does this passage teach me about God?
- Live life to the full: What does this passage teach me about myself?
- Make a difference: What is God inviting you to do or change as a result of what we have discussed? (You can give everyone a minute or so in silence to write it down) Spend some time praying for one another.

Witness

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?