

**LET'S REVIEW** — Holding phrases for the four Gospels. Memorize the following four statements! These hold the key to understanding the four Gospels.

**MATTHEW:** Jesus' Teaching Manual for living the deeply satisfied life;

**MARK:** Our mission is to awaken those spiritually asleep;

**LUKE:** Jesus and Jesus' message is the same;

**JOHN:** The meaning of our baptismal experience.

## **TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

### **IHOP BIBLE STUDY**

#### **# 25 Topic: "The Dead to Life" - with commentary**

#### **Luke 8: 40 – 42 and 49 – 56 "A Dead Girl"**

The purpose of the Gospel of Luke is told in the opening verses in the first chapter, ". . . it seemed good to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught." It is this "orderly account" that provides the organization of our study material. This is lesson number 25 of 29.

#### **Read the assigned THEME at one time.**

**NOTE:** This is another of Luke's split stories. Jesus is asked by Jairus to come to his daughter who is dying. On the way, Jesus encounters the woman who has a bleeding for twelve years whom he heals. Then, he continues on his way to the house of Jairus to raise the dead. **NOTE:** Previously, we dealt with this story in lesson # 20 when the topic was "Healing." For our purposes for this study section, I'm repeating some of the questions used at that time. (Some of you may recognize them.)

#### **I. Luke 8:40 to 42a, "Healing of a Dead Girl."**

**Vs. 40 – This scripture begins, "Now when Jesus returned. . . " Where had Jesus been? (Think Gut Trip Analysis. Recall how we experience the "other side of the lake."**

**WS:** Recall that the Gut Trip definition of "the other side" is the place to which we go, or from which we go, to find spiritual Awakening. Further, recall that we do not live on just one side of the lake; we live on both sides of the lake. This is the Gut Trip definition of what it means to be a humane human being. To be fully and authentically human is to live with both eyes open. When we do, then this is the Gut Trip definition of living in the Kingdom of God. In other places, Gut Trip Analysis names living on the human side of the lake as "The Human Desert." Living on the *Other Side* of the lake is to live in the "Spiritual Oasis," or the Kingdom of God.

Again, it is important to say, we can only live our lives in the Spiritual Oasis, nor just in the Human Desert, if we are to be authentically human. The Desert makes us human; the Spiritual Oasis makes us humane.

#### **Vs. 41 – What are the social and religious implications here?**

**WS:** Jairus is one of the Synagogue Rulers. His office represents God as Perfect At-One-Ment. Also, his office represents the Spiritual Oasis of wholeness, health, abundant living. Yet, when the man is confronted by the death of his daughter, he is a drift in the Human Desert.

On the one hand, this is the experience in which those representing God had not awakened to their Spiritual natures. This is not an unheard of situation in our church pews and pulpits today. On the other hand, this is a metaphor for the awakening of the Jewish people to the Christ in their midst. Jesus is the Gardner of the Spiritual Oasis. The Christ is the power of awakening that is found in the Spiritual Oasis.

**Vss. 49 – 50: Explain what is going on here? In particular, look at the emotional words in**

**vs. 50: “Don’t be afraid, just believe, and she will be healed.” What does “believe” mean using Gut Trip Analysis?**

**WS:** The word “believe” literally means surrender. “Don’t be afraid, just surrender [to me], and she will be healed.” Faith is the activity of surrender. When we climb on an airplane, we surrender our lives to the laws of physics and the integrity of the aircraft. This is the act of putting our “faith” on the line; we bet our lives! Faith and belief are activities of surrendering. Christians surrender their lives to Jesus Christ.

**Vs. 55: Do a Gut Trip Analysis on the words, “Her spirit returned.” Where had it been? What was the experience of the little girl?**

**WS:** First, it is helpful to recall that the Gospels are best understood as metaphor. Jesus makes this point in the story. The faithful people, and the Jewish leadership, experienced the little girl as dead. Jesus observes that she is “not dead, but asleep.” The implication is that we die many kinds of death.

Hopelessness is one kind of death; it kills the spirit. Also, physical death represents final hopelessness. And it is final! Yet, for Christians (those who have a personal relationship to Jesus Christ) understand that even physical death need not be hopeless; we understand, and experience, the resurrection. We are not hopeless even in death.

This is the importance of our baptism. When we were baptized we went under the waters to “die a death like Christ’s death.” Then, we came up out of the watery grave to experience a “resurrection like Christ’s resurrection.” In this way, it can be said, that we are dead people walking. How can you kill someone who is already dead? (Now, can I have an amen?)

Where had the little girl’s spirit been? No where! It is where it was all of the time. Most of us are asleep to its presence, and assume that our spirit is an object out there that comes and goes. No, indeed. Our spirit is God’s gift. Our spirit is God’s breath. We need only awaken to it. This is what we do at worship, or at Sunday School, or at the IHOP Bible Study. We seek to awaken ourselves and others to the reality that our spirit, our Spiritual Oasis, is always there.

**There is a danger here. What happens if the little girl stayed dead?**

**WS:** Nothing happens! Her Spiritual Oasis is still there. Now, her body no longer is an encumbrance to her. She lives perpetually awakened!

**Vs. 56: Why does Jesus tell the crowd not to say anything? What’s going on?**

**WS:** The IHOP crew speculated on this. As I recall, Luke uses this formula only a few times. Mark, on the other hand, makes this statement central to his gospel, because the miracles can not be understood apart from the resurrection! Consequently, Mark uses Jesus’ statement, “Do not tell anyone what you have seen or experienced,” because later on you’ll know the rest of the story.

Perhaps, Luke is making use of this formula at this point.

**Alright, folks, talk to me.**