

Women of the Bible Series

The Two Daughters

June 26th John Rutter

Mark 5.21-34, Luke 4.14-21

Summary of key points

KEY verse: Mk 5.34 ‘Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering’.

The story describes a woman whose life has been blighted by illness and increasing poverty, but also by social conventions and religious rules which do nothing to help her, but rather make her condition worse.

Jesus ignores social conventions and regulations about cleanness and heals the woman, physically, emotionally, and mentally. She is restored into her community.

Application questions for discussion

Read the Bible passages again, ideally using at least 2 different versions, and then consider the following questions:

1 Jesus says in John 10.10 that he came so that ‘they (disciples or everyone?) may have life, and have it to the full’. What do you think this means for the world and for us?

2 Men wrote the Bible and until recently were the main interpreters of the Bible. They also to a great extent make the rules and hold the power. How may this have affected women, and also minority groups in this country, and around the world?

3 The worldwide Church faces big questions about the role of women, and about sex and gender issues. There is also changing understandings of what it means to be a person - a man or woman or another category. How should the Church respond? What do you think?

4 The story of the 2 daughters is encouraging as a story of healing and restoration – do you have a similar story you could share? And also, what do we say or do when there does not appear to be healing and restoration in response to prayer?

Prayer activity

In 2's or 3's share stories of recent healing, or other 'God-incidents', that you know about, and spend time giving thanks.

Then invite prayer for a situation in your life where you need/would like God's intervention and spend time praying for each other.

Further reading (optional)

Kate Bruce and Liz Shercliff 'Out of the Shadows -preaching the women of the Bible' SCM

Paula Gooder 'Phoebe – a Story' Hodder

Trevor Dennis 'Women's Voices in the Old Testament' SPCK