

Summary

In this sermon, Taylor Brown explores the story of Jesus healing the woman with the issue of bleeding from Luke 8, using it to teach about investing in people's lives. He emphasizes that true investment in others requires being willing to have our schedules interrupted, recognizing that people's problems matter, and understanding that every person has value regardless of their reputation or struggles. Through personal stories, including dealing with a troubled youth, Taylor illustrates how showing up for people in their darkest moments can plant seeds of faith, even when we don't see immediate results. The message challenges us to orient our lives around investing in the next generation and being available when others need us most.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today to discuss Your word and what it means for our lives, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us. Help us to set aside our own agendas and distractions so that we can truly hear from You. Give us the courage to be honest with one another and the wisdom to apply Your truth to our daily lives. We pray that through our time together, You would show us how to better invest in the people You've placed around us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the most unexpected interruption you've had recently that actually turned out to be a blessing or led to something good?

Key Verses

1. Luke 8:40-48

Questions

1. Taylor mentioned that investing in people often involves interruptions. How do you typically respond when your schedule gets interrupted by someone who needs help or wants to talk?
2. In the story, Jesus could have kept walking to Jairus' house but stopped for the bleeding woman. What does this teach us about the value Jesus places on individuals?
3. The woman had been struggling for 12 years and was considered an outcast. Who are the 'outcasts' in our community that we might be overlooking?

4. Taylor shared that people often just want someone to listen, not necessarily someone with expertise. How can we become better listeners to those around us?
5. Jesus called the woman 'daughter,' showing she belonged in His family. How can we help people feel like they belong, especially those who feel rejected or isolated?
6. The sermon mentioned that we might not see the fruit of our investment but we can plant seeds. How does this perspective change the way we approach investing in difficult relationships?
7. What are some practical ways we can make our schedules more flexible to be available for people who need us?
8. Taylor emphasized that every person matters regardless of their reputation or struggles. How can we overcome our own judgments and biases when reaching out to others?

Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life (whether a family member, coworker, neighbor, or someone from church) who might need someone to invest in them. Make a specific plan to reach out - whether it's a phone call, coffee meeting, or simply being more available when they need to talk. Be prepared to let your schedule be interrupted if they need you, and focus on listening rather than trying to fix their problems.

Key Takeaways

1. Investing in people requires being willing to have our schedules interrupted - sometimes people need us more than our planned activities matter
2. People's problems and struggles matter, regardless of how big or small they seem to us - they often just need someone to listen and care
3. Every person has value and belongs in God's family, regardless of their reputation, past mistakes, or current struggles
4. We may not always see the immediate fruit of our investment in others, but we can plant seeds that may grow later
5. True investment means being available, showing up consistently, and communicating to people that they matter and belong

Ending Prayer

Father God, thank You for the example of Jesus, who was always willing to stop and invest in people, even when it interrupted His plans. Help us to have hearts like His - hearts that see the value in every person and are willing to make time for those who need us. Give us the courage to reach out to those who might feel like outcasts or who are struggling. Help us to be good listeners and to show Your love through our availability and care. We pray that through our investments in others, seeds would be planted that will one day grow into a relationship with You. Use us to fill the seats of this church with the next generation who will continue to serve You faithfully. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.