

The Gospel of
LUKE



Gospel of Luke

Chapter 8 – Part B

Verses 22–56

Jesus Stills the Sea - Believing the Word
The Demoniac Cured - Rejecting the Word
Miracles of Healing - Experiencing the Word

Verses 22–25

Jesus Stills the Sea – Believing the Word

▶ Who is Jesus?

- These disciples had surely seen Jesus' healings and works of power, the very things expected of the Messiah.
- But supremacy over nature itself far exceeded the words and powers of Israel's expected Messiah.

▶ Why did Jesus asks where is your faith?

- They failed to: “Take heed that you hear”.
- He (Jesus) said to them, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.”
- The disciples failed this test of faith because they did not lay hold of His word that he was going to the other side.

▶ Jesus asks where is your faith?

- The disciples looked around and saw danger, and looked within and saw fear, but they failed to look up by faith and see God.
- Faith and fear cannot dwell together in the same heart.
 - Warren Wiersbe has said, “Faith is not believing in spite of circumstances; it is obeying in spite of feeling and consequences.”

- ▶ In a number of cases in Luke there are non-disciples that are praised for their faith:
 - (v. 5:20), the 4 men with the paralytic
 - (v. 7:9), the centurion
 - (v. 7:50), the sinful women
 - (v. 8:48), the bleeding woman
 - (v. 17:19), the Samaritan leper
 - (v. 18:42), the blind man in Jericho

- ▶ Why does this seldom happen for the twelve?

▶ **Faith** (my opinion on this)

- Understanding “the mysteries of the Kingdom of God” is harder and more complex than responding to a single encounter with Jesus.
- Prolonged experience with Jesus inevitably must yield deeper understanding and deeper understanding leads to deeper questions. Which leads to more faith.

Verses 26–39

The Demoniac Cured - Rejecting the Word

- ▶ What's special about the country on the other side of the Lake?
 - It was gentile territory
 - An area of tombs
 - An area where pigs are raised

- ▶ What was the condition of the man they encountered?
 - He's called the Demoniac
 - Scripture preserves no more wretched description of human existence than this demoniac.
 - He was consigned to live among tombs, with superhuman strength capable of breaking chains.
 - He's described in brute terminology: untamable, crying among the tombs, and cutting himself with stones.

- ▶ The demons in him know who Jesus is?
 - Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.”
 - Interestingly the Demoniac answers the Apostles question from the boat trip, “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?” (Luke 8:25)

- ▶ What does the demoniac know about the power and authority of Jesus?
 - Jesus had already called out demons.
 - The demons believe in God and tremble (James 2:19).
 - The effectiveness of Jesus' spiritual authority is seen by the demons recognizing Jesus as the Son of God (4:41; 8:28).
 - There is antagonism to Jesus by the demonic, (1 John 3:8) states that a purpose of the incarnation is to destroy the works of the devil.

▶ Who does the demoniac say he is?

- (v. 30) And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him.
 - A Roman legion is 5,600 soldiers
- Judaism popularly believed the Messiah would rid Palestine of Roman occupation. It’s ironic that in this instance Jesus “fulfills” the popular messianic hopes – although the “legions” expelled are of a different nature and sent to a different place.

- ▶ The contrast of this event!
 - An unclean man with an unclean spirit living among unclean tombs surrounded by people employed in unclean occupations, all in unclean Gentile territory.
 - This unclean area and demonic foe does not defile Jesus; rather, the holiness of Jesus rescues and transforms the demoniac.

- ▶ What's the reaction to Jesus' unveiled power (v. 35–37)?
 - After Jesus calls out the demons and send them into the pigs. The people were frightened and gripped with fear.
 - The people may have been more frightened by Jesus' power to expel the demons than they are of the demoniac himself.
 - Loss of money may also been more important to them than mercy!

- ▶ What's the reaction to Jesus' unveiled power (v. 37–39)?
 - The unbelieving people of the country of the reject Jesus.
 - After the demons leave, the demoniac experiences the “kingdom of God” when Jesus “grants” him a commission to proclaim the good news to the Gentiles.

Verses 40–56

Miracles of Healing – Experiencing the Word

- ▶ What else happened in this part of the chapter (v. 41–46)?
 - Jairus, a synagogue official. Implores Jesus to come to his house because his Jesus' daughter was dying. Which he does after she dies.
 - A women with a bleeding condition is healed by touching Jesus' clothing.

▶ The Bleeding Women

- Although the crowd pressed against Jesus, He knew when a woman touched the fringe of His garment and was healed.
- This woman in Luke 8 was not the only person who was healed by touching the fringe of Jesus' cloak or garment. – Mark 6:56

▶ The Bleeding Women (v. 47–48)

- Perhaps the woman's faith was a bit superstitious, but the Lord responded to it just the same.
- However, He would not permit her to disappear into the crowd and remain anonymous.
- Had she done that, she would never have glorified God by her testimony; and she would never have heard His special words of blessing.

▶ The Bleeding Women

- She had experienced the blessing of His power, but she also needed to experience the blessing of His Word.
- He called her “daughter,” which suggests that she was now in the family (the kingdom of God).

- ▶ **The Bleeding Women**
- ▶ The phrase “made you whole/well” (v. 48) is a translation of the word that means “to be saved.”
- ▶ Healing is a symbol of salvation; remember the story of the paralytic in 5:23–25.
- ▶ She had a healed body and a saved soul, and she went out in peace, all because of His word!

▶ Jairus's Daughter (v. 49–50)

- Jairus may have become frightened and discouraged as he waited for Jesus to minister to the woman, and then the bad news came that his daughter had died.
- But Jesus encouraged the distraught father by telling him to believe that she will be made well.

▶ Jairus's daughter (v. 51–53)

- What Jairus found there must have frightened him even more: people weeping and wailing and his daughter lying dead upon her bed.
- Jesus is always master of every situation. He dismissed the mourners and told them to stop weeping. Why weep over a sleeping child?
 - (When believers die, the body sleeps, but the spirit goes to be with the Lord—1 Thes. 4:13–18; Phil. 1:19–23)

▶ Jairus's daughter (v. 54–55)

- All He said was, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” and her spirit returned to her body; she got out of bed and walked.
- She experienced the life-giving power of the Word of God!

“For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood
fast” (Psalms 33:9)