

Luke 8

Review of *Luke 7*:

- Healing of the centurion's slave
- Raising of the widow of Nain's son
- The disciples from John the Baptist
- Comparison of John the Baptist and Christ
- Sinful woman and washing the feet of Jesus

Luke 8.1-3

V1 – What procedure was Jesus using for evangelism? Going from city to city, preaching about the coming kingdom of God

V2 – He was assisted by several godly women

- What miracle had Mary Magdalene received?** Had 7 evil spirits cast out of her
- She was full of gratitude because of this
- See *John 20.1* – Mary Magdalene was at the tomb on Sunday morning – one of the first to know of the resurrection of Jesus

V3 – Joanna – also assisted Jesus and the 12 apostles

- Her husband worked for Herod
- Phil. 1.13* – Some of Caesar's guards were later converted by Paul
- Some other wealthy women assisted Jesus and the apostles
- Did Jesus have the power to take care of his own needs miraculously?** Yes
- Why didn't he?** Others would appreciate him more if they had a part in his ministry
- Remember the situation at Corinth (*1 Cor. 9*) – Paul was accused of not loving the Christians there because he didn't charge them any money
- Sometimes we will see elders in the church doing menial tasks – tasks that should have been given to others to strengthen those members in the faith

Luke 8.4-8

- Parallel accounts in *Matt. 13.3-23* and *Mark 4.3-25*
- Definition of a parable: a story that could have been true, and with a clear moral to it
- Parables never used proper names (the account of the rich man and Lazarus is not a parable)

V4 – What attracted so many people to Jesus? The power of his words

V 5-9 – A sower went out to sow

1. Some seed fell beside the road

- The roads were without fences as they went through cultivated land
- In the Midwest, we see corn fields and soybean fields, and there are trails going through the fields
- The farmer sows over the trails, as he sows
- What happened to the seed on the road?** It was trampled and eaten by birds

2. Some fell on rocky soil (thin soil over rocks)

- What happened to it?** The seed sprouted, but withered
- Why?** No depth of soil

3. Some fell among thorns

-Thorns are tough to get rid of; it is easier to have thorns and weeds in a garden than flowers

-Result? The seeds sprang up, but were choked by the thorns

4. Some fell on good ground and produced a great harvest

-With four kinds of sowing conditions, only one actually produced fruit and a harvest

Luke 8.9-15 – The explanation of the parable

V 9 – **Why did they not understand the parable?** This might have been the first parable that Jesus ever told

V 10 – **Jesus' answer?** To those searching for the truth, the truth will be shown to them

-Those who had hardened hearts would not understand and would not ask for help (too proud)

V 11 – **Seed?** The Word of God

V 12 – **Seed beside the road?** People hear the gospel, but do not care to believe

-The word is good, but the soil is not prepared to accept it

V 13 – **Rocky soil?** Some are converted but have shallow roots; they soon fall away from the church

V 14 – **Those sown among thorns?** Their faith is choked out by the worries and riches and pleasures of this life

-Have we known anyone whose spiritual life was choked out by riches and the cares of this world? All congregations have seen that happen many times

V 15 – **The good ground?** They hold fast to the truth and bear much fruit for the kingdom of God

Luke 8.16-21

V 16 – Some world religions are very secretive

-Many cults are secretive (for example, the Masons)

-They will not disclose their financial statements or their secret handshakes or their passwords, etc.

-But with Christianity, its nature is to reveal truth

-The more we learn about the Bible, the greater respect we have for it

-What did Jesus compare truth to? A lamp which cannot be hidden

-So the parable was not to confuse people, but to make the concept of the kingdom of God clearer to the people

V 17 – Everything pertaining to the kingdom of God will come to light; there will be no secret things

V 18 – If we "hear" the truth, more truth will be given to us

-If we are "deaf" to the truth, we will become more ignorant about it

V 19 – **Why did Mary and the half-brothers of Jesus want to talk to him?** According to H. Leo Boles, maybe to try to take him home with them

-Where was Joseph? Most commentators think that he was probably dead by this time

V 20-21 – Message? Family ties are not as great as spiritual ties

-We cannot be born into the Christian faith, but we must do the will of Christ

-Consider the Catholic doctrine concerning Mary, but in this passage, she was not perfect; she was not one of the spiritual believers in Jesus as this time

-Also, notice the "brothers" of Jesus – she was not a perpetual virgin, as the Catholics claim

-According to *Mark 6.3*, Mary had 4 sons and at least 2 daughters the natural way (after the virgin birth of Christ)

Luke 8 22-25 – The stilling of the sea (parallel accounts in *Matt. 8.18-27* and *Mark 4.35-41*)

V 22 – Jesus and his apostles were probably tired and needed some rest

V 23 – Jesus fell asleep (all human and all divine)

V 24 – It is possible that Satan sent the storm to try to kill Jesus

-Jesus "rebuked" the wind

V 25 – **Why should the twelve apostles have believed in the power of Jesus?** Because they had seen several miracles done already

Luke 8.26-39

V 26 – Location: east side of the Sea of Galilee

V 27 – The boat landed – there was a man there who probably attacked travelers

-**What details did Luke give us about this man?** Possessed by demons, had not worn clothes for a long time, did not live in a house but among the tombs

V 28 – There seem to be two sides of the thinking of this man: his own and that of the demons

-**What knowledge did the demons have?** That Jesus was the Son of God (*James 2.19*)

-**What request did they make of Jesus?** Not to torment them

-In other words, they were afraid of the power of Jesus

V 29 – **What was the past history of this man?** He had been captured, but kept escaping and fleeing into the desert

V 30 – **Why did Jesus ask the man his name?** Maybe to see if he still had his own consciousness

-**His name?** Legion

-A full Roman legion had 6000 men

-*Mark 5.13* – 2000 hogs were afflicted

-The man had not yet broken himself loose from the demons

V 31 – **Where did the demons not want to go?** Back to the abyss

-**Abyss?** The prison for Satan and his demons

-See *Revelation 20.3* – where Satan was

V 32 – Why did the demons kill the swine? Demons are destructive by nature

-Another idea: Jesus was God in the flesh; maybe this was Satan's attempt to get "in the flesh" (demon possession)

-Did Jesus do wrong in allowing someone else's swine to get killed? God made the universe; he can do what he wants to do

-Hab. 2.20 – The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

-We do not always possess adequate knowledge for judging in such cases

-We know that Jesus had the divine right to act as he did

V 34 – Reaction of the observers of the scene (caretakers of the swine)? Ran for their lives and reported it in the city

V 35 – How did they find the man? Sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind

-For those today who think that nudism is healthy for people, notice that when this man regained his mind, he put his clothes on

-There is a great message there for nudists and others who are immodestly dressed and those who see how little they can wear and not get arrested

V 36 – They all got the story of what happened to the swine

V 37 – What request was made to Jesus? To leave

-Why? Maybe the owners of the swine were afraid of losing more of their herds

-They thought more of their pigs than of the salvation of the healed man

-Acts 16 – The slave girl at Philippi – Paul cast out her evil spirit, and he was arrested – their way of making money was destroyed (a similar situation)

V 38 – Reaction of the healed man? Begged to go with Jesus

V 39 – Instructions of Jesus to the man? To return home and preach to his own people

-A great lesson: It is great to do mission work in the far corners of the world, but we can also do mission work in our own cities and towns

Do we have demon possession today?

See these scriptures:

-Luke 10.18-20 – Satan fell

-Rom. 8.38 - ...nor angels...

-Col. 2.15 – The "authorities" had been disarmed

-Rev. 20.2 – Satan was bound for a thousand years (a very long time)

Luke 8.40-56

V 40 – How was this crowd different from the one in the previous section? This one welcomed him; they were waiting for him to arrive

V 41 – Who was Jairus? Leader of the synagogue

-Why did he fall at the feet of Jesus? It was a reverent posture

V 42 – **Details on his child?** His only daughter, 12 years old, and she was dying

-Notice the faith of Jairus: Leaving his dying daughter to go and find Jesus

-Also, daughters were not worth much in the days of the First Century, but he held his daughter in high regard

Note: **V 43-48** – This miracle is interrupted by another miracle

V 43 – **What was wrong with this lady?** Hemorrhage (menstrual discharge) for 12 years; she had spent all her money and had not been healed

-*Lev. 15.25* – a continual discharge made a woman "ceremonially unclean"

-Luke suggests strongly that her case was incurable (like some cases today)

V 44 – **Why did she come up behind him?** Perhaps timid about her situation (continual menstrual bleeding)

V 45 – **Why did Jesus ask a question?** To draw attention to what was happening

-**Notice who spoke up?** Peter (as was usually the case)

V 46 – **How did Jesus know someone had touched him?** His felt the healing power leave him

V 47 – Notice: trembling

-She told what had happened

V 48 – **His parting words?**

V 49-56 – Resumption of the first miracle

V 49 – Imagine Jairus' thoughts during this time

-Maybe he wanted Jesus to hurry up, or maybe his faith was strengthened

-**What message is brought?** The daughter was dead; no need to come

V 50 – **Jesus?** Just have faith

V 51 – **Why were not all the people let in?** Possibly he didn't want this to be theatrical, or possibly too many unbelievers were there (mourners, etc.)

V 52 – Frequently death is called "sleep" in the Bible

-**Why?** Because it is not permanent, but it is sleep from God's point of view

V 53 – Laughter at Jesus

V 54 – The miracle

V 55 – **Why food?** It proved that she was alive

V 56 – **Why were they not to tell anyone?** Jesus did not want his fame to reach its climax too soon; they would try again to make him a political king

-See *New International Commentary on Luke*, p. 262, last paragraph, for good comments here

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