



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

LESSON 7 - STUDY QUESTIONS

LUKE 8:1-56

DAY ONE

1. Last week's lesson continued to recount Jesus' ministry in Galilee. Of the healings or the encounter with the disciples of John the Baptist in Lesson 6 (Luke Chapter 7), was there something new that you learned?

Read Luke 8:1-10

2a. At the end of the last lesson, Jesus was attended to by the woman with the alabaster jar. As today's lesson begins, what was Jesus doing (verse 1)?

b. Jesus was accompanied by His twelve disciples, as well as by a number of women whom He had cured of evil spirits and infirmities. These women helped provide for Jesus out of their resources. Name the ones who are mentioned in verses 2 and 3 and record their description.

3a. When a great crowd gathered around Jesus, He told the Parable of the Sower and the Seed (verse 4). In this parable, the sower went out to sow seed one day and the seed he threw landed in four different places (verses 5-8). What happened to the seed when it landed in each of the following places?

1. on the path
2. on the rock
3. among thorns
4. in good soil

b. Record Jesus' words from the end of verse 8.

4a. When the disciples asked Jesus what the parable meant (verse 9), He first answered them by telling them that they had been given a special gift. What insights were they given to know according to Jesus in verse 10?

b. While the disciples were prepared to hear and accept Jesus' teaching, others were not. In what manner did He speak to others according to verse 10 and for what reason?

5. In verse 8 Jesus asked anyone with ears to listen to Him! Yet in verse 10 He said that some would not be able to perceive or understand. Jesus was quoting Isaiah 6:9-10. Read and record these verses.

NOTE: As in the time of the prophet Isaiah, only those who are opened to the will of God for their lives will "look" and "see" Jesus' power and authority through His miracles and "hear" and "understand" His Gospel message of eternal salvation. (Agape Bible Study, www.agapebiblestudy.com)

6. CONNECTION: In this passage, Jesus cried urgently to the crowd, "Let anyone who has ears listen!" Has anyone ever said to you, "Listen to me!" as a preface to a really important command? Did they ever exclaim in frustration: "Are you deaf?" As in the time of the Old Testament prophet Isaiah, many failed to listen to Jesus' call for repentance, and in this passage He begged people to open their hearts to His message. We too can tune out God's message of repentance. What are some obstacles that might keep you from really hearing God's word? For example, do you need more silent time or could something be blocking God's message? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Isaiah 35:5-6 and pray for the beautiful day when we can hear God's message clearly.

DAY TWO

Read Luke 8:11-18

7a. In today's lesson Jesus explained to His disciples the meaning of the Parable of the Sower and the Seed: The seed is the word of God (verse 11). Different results occur in the hearts of those who hear God's word. According to Jesus, what happened to the seed, i.e. the word of God, that landed on "the path that was trampled" from verse 12?

b. What happened to the people for whom the word was planted on rock (who at first "receive the word with joy") in verse 13?

8a. Jesus told the disciples that the seed which landed among thorns signifies people who hear the word of God but their "fruit" does not mature. What were the reasons the seed did not flourish (verse 14)?

b. What word or words could you use to describe the people in verses 12-14 from the path, the rock and the thorns?

9. What does Jesus tell them about the meaning of the seed that falls on good soil in verse 15? (Good memory verse)

10a. In verse 16 Jesus related His talk about the spreading of faith to the lighting of a lamp. What should and should not be done with a lit lamp?

b. What is Jesus' conclusion in verse 17?

11. Jesus emphasizes again the importance of listening to the word of God in verse 18. Record it here.

12. CONNECTION: In this week's passage again we are told to not only listen to God's word but also to hold God's word in honest and good hearts, to persevere in faith, and to bear fruit with patient endurance. These words connote a fertile garden in which the soil is rich and malleable. It is softened by humility and hardship. It is watered with the sacraments. It is weeded with prayer. We pray that our hearts are a fertile place for God's word to grow and flourish abundantly. What events in your life have helped to create a "heart for God's word?" Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record Ezekiel 36:26 and begin your prayer today asking God to keep the soil of your heart fertile for His word.

NOTE: "Kind hearts are the gardens, Kind thoughts are the roots, Kind words are the flowers, Kind deeds are the fruits, Take care of your garden and keep out the weeds, Fill it with sunshine, Kind words, and Kind deeds." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

DAY THREE

Read Luke 8:19-25

13a. In today's lesson we are told that Jesus' mother and brothers tried to come to Him when He was preaching, but the crowd prevented them from doing so (verse 19). The crowd let Jesus know that His family was waiting outside for Him (verse 20). What was His response from verse 21?

b. Verse 21 reinforces the necessity of listening to God's word and obeying it. Mary, the mother of Jesus, modeled this trait when the angel came to her to announce that she would be the mother of God. Reread and record the first sentence of Luke 1:38.

NOTE: The Catholic Study Bible says in regard to Luke 8:21. "The family of Jesus is not constituted by physical relationship with Him but by obedience to the word of God."

14. In verse 22 we find Jesus and the disciples once again by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus got into a boat with His disciples and suggested that they go across to the other side of the lake. What did He do next according to the beginning of verse 23?

15. The weather suddenly got worse. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. So the disciples went to Him and woke Him up. What did they shout from verse 24?

16a. Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. What was the result from the end of verse 24?

b. Jesus appears to have been disappointed that the disciples had not remained calm during the storm. What did He say to them (verse 25)?

17. What was the disciples' reaction to the event from the rest of verse 25?

18. CONNECTION: Like the disciples in the small boat, sometimes our faith is shaken. When we encounter storms, we may mistakenly think that we are perishing - that He is not there - that He has forgotten us - and so assume that we have to save ourselves. But, by putting our trust in God, by acknowledging Jesus' dominion in our lives, we can remain calm in the storm. He is the Lord of the wind, the sea, the earthquakes, the stock market, the crime rate, the wars, the train wrecks and calamities of every kind. Share with your small group a trying time in which you relied on Jesus and He was there for you.

Read Matthew 6:25-27, and record one of the verses here, visualizing that God is keeping you in the palm of His hand.

DAY FOUR

Read Luke 8:26-36

19. As today's lesson begins, Jesus has finished His boat trip and landed at the country of the Gerasenes on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land He was met by a man who had demons. Describe the man (verse 27).

20a. When the demoniac saw Jesus he fell down before Him and shouted at the top of his voice. Record his question here from verse 28.

b. This man was thoroughly debased and miserable. He was socially outcast to the point of being naked and living among the dead, because he was totally controlled by evil. What phrase from the end of verse 28 shows his recognition of Jesus' power over evil?

21a. Explain further the power of the demon over the man from the end of verse 29.

b. Jesus asked the demoniac his name. What was the rather frightful answer and the reason for it (verse 30)?

22. The demons begged Jesus not to order them back into the "abyss." Where did they beg Jesus that He let them enter and what was the result from verses 32 and 33?

23. When the swineherds saw what happened, they ran off and told about it in the city and the country. As a result people came to see for themselves. What miraculous change did they see in the demoniac and how did they react (verse 35)?

24. CONNECTION: There were 6,000 soldiers in a Roman legion. That was the number of demons claiming to inhabit the poor man in today's passage. Like the demoniac controlled by Legion, the world "is in the power of the evil one" (CCC 409). Yet the demons in this story feared Jesus Christ. Evil is a force in the world but Our Lord is more powerful. Naming evil is the first step to conquering it. When we are surrounded by evil we are sometimes tempted to shrink back from it. How do you get the strength to confront evil when you see it? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read and record 1 John 4:4 and pray for the strength to confront evil.

DAY FIVE

Read Luke 8:37-48

25a. In today's passage the people from the country of the Gerasenes became upset by the exorcism Jesus performed. What did they ask Jesus to do and why (verse 37)?

b. Jesus left the area by boat but the former demoniac begged that he might be with Him (verse 38). What did Jesus answer and what was the result from verse 39?

26. In verse 40 Jesus returned to Galilee, where crowds welcomed Him. A man named Jairus who was a leader of the synagogue approached Jesus when He arrived on shore (verse 41). Summarize what he did and what he needed from Jesus as stated in verses 41 and 42.

27a. As Jesus started off toward the house of Jairus, the crowd pressed in on Him (verse 42). Describe the woman who came up and touched the fringe of Jesus' clothes from verses 43 and 44?

b. This ailment hurt the woman physically. In addition (according to Leviticus 15:25-27) what would it mean in terms of acceptance in society?

28a. What miraculously happened to the woman when she touched the tassel of Jesus' clothes (verse 44)?

NOTE: The tassel on Jewish men's robes was to remind them of the Ten Commandments.

b. Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied touching Him Peter surmised that it was just the crowds that surrounded and inadvertently pressed in on Him (verse 45). In verse 46, why was Jesus sure that someone had touched Him?

29a. When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, what did she do (verse 47)?

b. What did Jesus say to her from verse 48?

30. CONNECTION: Imagine having the terrible problem of the woman who has suffered from hemorrhages for 12 years and spent all her money trying in vain to find a cure. Not only was she sick and miserable, she was ritually unclean and shunned by the community. She does not approach Jesus directly; rather, she humbly creeps up to touch the tassel of His robe. As soon as she reaches out to Him she is immediately healed. Her faith saves her. She is not forgotten by God. She is known by Jesus and precious to Him. Has there been a time when you were sick and alone, but like the woman in this story had the courage to reach out to others or to God for help? What was the result?

Read and record Psalm 30:2 and write a prayer today thankful for the courage God gives us to reach out to Him and to others for help.

DAY SIX

Read Luke 8:49-56

31a. As today's lesson begins, Jesus was on his way to Jairus' house when a messenger came from that house to give Jairus a message (verse 49). Record it here.

b. Jesus seemed to disregard this message. What did He say to Jairus in verse 50?

32. When Jesus arrived at Jairus' house, He only allowed five people to accompany Him in to the house. Name them from verse 51.

33a. People at the house were all weeping and wailing for the girl, thinking she was dead. What did Jesus say to them in verse 52?

b. How did they react?

34a. Jesus paid no attention to the mourners and took the girl by the hand and called out (verse 54). What did He say and what was the result?

b. Jesus then directed them to give her something to eat. Jairus' faith was not in vain. Read and record Jeremiah 32:27.

35. What was the reaction of her parents and what did Jesus order them to do (verse 56).

36. CONNECTION: Jairus fell at Jesus' feet and begged Him to save his dying daughter. A messenger from his home arrived claiming that it was too late for Jesus to save the girl, and that "he should not bother the Master." Jairus ignored the message, continuing to place his faith in Jesus. He was desperate because his daughter meant so much to him and he was powerless on his own to save her. We too are helpless creatures, in many ways unable to protect even the people most precious to us. We must rely on Jesus at every level of our lives, knowing that nothing exists that He does not control. We too receive misleading messages that "we should not bother the Lord" or it is too late for him to help us. Share an example of a time when you felt as if it was too late for even God to help you, and yet you kept praying and received an unexpected gift from above.

Read and record 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 and offer these verses as your prayer today.

After completing this lesson, read pages 54-62 in the *The Gospel According to Luke* by Michael F. Patella, O.S.B. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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