

Faith Gone Missing

Luke 8:22 - 25

Nutshell: We are easily overwhelmed, but the flesh can only take over where we have not attained disciplined fellowship with God.

I. Context: Jesus defining His relationship to Mary.

II. Text

Luke 8:22 And it happened on one of the days that He Himself went into a boat- also His pupils. Then He said to them, "Let's go across to the far side of the lake." And off they set.

Literal Standard Version with modifications

The next four outline items, III. - VI., are based on the 4 uses of Scripture listed in 2 Tim 3:16 AND the 3 depictions of preaching in 2 Tim 4:2.

III. Teaching

A. An outline of Luke to this point

I. About this Letter: So you'll know about this Jesus, 1:1-4

II. Rejoice! The Messiah is born! A boyhood turning point, 1:5 – 2:52

III. John proclaims repentance for Christ's coming, 3:1 – 20

IV. Messiah's Entry Credentials: Baptism and Genealogy, 3:21–38

V. His Initiation: Fasting and Temptation, 4:1 - 13

VI. His Self-Introduction and Hometown Rejection, 4:14 - 30

VII. Jesus: the FIRST MAN with absolute authority **in** Scriptures, and **over** angels/demons, sickness, and nature, 4:31 - 5:11

VIII. Turning-Point Healings, 5:12 – 32

A. Repatriating a leper, 5:12 – 16, touching the unclean outcast to preview His taking of our exile/ disease into Himself

B. Forgiving sin, 5:17 – 26, thus declaring His Deity

C. Healing/ renewal of a man's (Matthew's) soul, 5:27 – 32

IX. New and Old Covenants:

A. NC = OC *replacement*, ~~patch-up~~, 5:33–39. NC: Law in ♥.

B. 6:1-11, OC Sabbath *strict*, but intended as a *help*.

X. Picking the 12, 6:12-16; teaching / etc., incl. Tyrites, 6:17-19

XI. Jesus' manifesto: the **SERMON ON THE PLAIN**, 6:20-49

A. *Earthy* evidence of the *spiritual* traits in the Sermon on the Mt. Literal poor vs. rich. Christ's disciples are to love

their haters.

B. Give generously, living by pity

C. Right teaching alone produces right living. Convict *self*
1st. Only building on Christ survives life's floodplains.

XII. Messiah's Mission Portrayed in His Interactions

A. Forecast: A **Gentile** seeks Jesus for a healing, Lk 7:1-10

B. Forecast: Hope still held out to **Israel**: Nain widow, 11-17

C. John's Q. A.: 2 diverse comings & an interval, 7:24-30

D. John & Jesus differently wise. Both rejected, 7:31-35

E. Love for Jesus is tied to forgiveness. The sinful woman had both; Simon the Pharisee lacked both, 7:36-50.

F. 8:1-15, The Parable of the Soils shows 4 kinds of "hearing" of the Word. Only one bears fruit- the "virtuous and sound heart," whose constancy uses perplexing trials to grow its self-control.

G. 8:16-18, Note HOW you hear. The Word must be itself: a light exposing *you*, then shining out to be seen/ heard.

H. 8:19-21, Jesus identifies His real family as those hearing and obeying God. Mary had no inside track.

Kid-speak: Could Mary get to Jesus better than anyone else? No. Can people get to Jesus *through* Mary? No.

B. 8:22-25, Jesus controls a storm and addresses His pupils' unbelief.

Outline:

I. When you go with Jesus, be ready for **adventure**, v 22

II. Jesus' presence doesn't prevent **calamity**, v 23

III. Jesus' power, v 24

A. In calamity, call on Jesus (with as little fear as possible)

B. Jesus as prophet speaks God's power where God wishes

IV. Knowing Jesus, v 25

A. If you know Jesus, you know reprimand

B. If you know Jesus, your knowledge of Him will grow

C. Luke 8:22, "And it happened on one of the days"

1. A 6-word Greek phrase that also occurs in 5:17 and 20:1

2. Perhaps it's a phrase introducing a chronologically non-sequenced event

3. On the other two occasions, He was teaching

- D. “Then He Himself went into a boat- also His pupils, and He said to them, ‘Let’s go across to the far side of the lake.’ And off they set.”
1. “Pupils” is really the better translation for “disciples”
 2. “He Himself” focuses on Jesus’ decision to take a boat. He had a purpose, but it may have only been for the Gospel *or* just for a rest
 - a. We don’t know that God had revealed the upcoming storm to Him
 - b. We assume that He *didn’t* know *unless* God specifically revealed it, since His humanity was not automatically omniscient. (Did His humanity/ brain *turn* practically omniscient after the Resurrection?)
 3. Mark tells us that a number of other boats accompanied them, Mk 4:36

Kid-speak: Do you know who the disciples were? Do you know what disciples *are*? The Greek word is *math-a-tace*. It means “student.” Are you one of Jesus’ students?

Luke 8:23 And as they sailed, He fell fast asleep.

And a gale of wind descended into the lake, and they were being overflowed; and they were imperiled.

- E. Jesus was a busy man as Messiah. He earned His sleep every night.
- F. “A gale of wind descended” from the surrounding hills, as still happens today. No rain is mentioned. But the waves were churned up enough to overflow the boat with water. It was a life-threatening situation.
- G. Note that the disciples secured Christ’s presence by going with Him at His command. But Christ’s presence does not rule out big affliction.
- H. People are land creatures. When we go out to sea, we are out of our element. When the sky conspires with the sea against us, we are at our most helpless.

Luke 8:24 And coming near, they fully awakened Him, saying, “Overseer! Overseer! We are perishing!” And being fully awakened, He reprimanded the wind and the surging of the water; and they ceased. And a calm occurred.

- I. Does Christ's "reprimand/ rebuke" imply Satanic power behind the gale?
 1. Not necessarily. Satan is "the ruler of the authority of the air," but does he also give us sunshine?
 2. "Ruler of the authority of the air" tells **where** he dwells, not the *extent* of his dominion there
 - a. If he had absolute dominion over the air, he could simply suffocate us at will
 - b. Rather, as an angel, his dominion is 'over' us as land creatures. But God's dominion is over him.
 3. God "causes the sun to rise" and "sends rain," Matt 5:45.
 4. Could God have allowed Satan to send the gale? Certainly, but without the Bible saying so, we shouldn't assume it
- J. "Reprimanded the wind and the surging of the water"
 1. On the other hand, Christ's control of the wind and water are *tokens* of his control over spiritual realms and powers
 - a. "Reprimand/ rebuke" has already been used of Christ commanding demons, Lk 4:35
 - b. But will also be spoken to human non-enemies, Lk 9:21

Kid-speak: Who controls the weather? God. Sunshiny days? Stormy days? Tornadoes?

2. Do *we* have power over the wind in Jesus' name?
 - a. Well, give it a try (Meaning don't).
 - b. Christ did not regularly take control of the weather. This was a case of need.
 - c. Otherwise, better to simply apprise the Boss of our case
3. How many folks have "rebuked" hurricanes?
 - a. Operating in Jesus' name = acting according to His will. What *is* His will for a hurricane?
 - b. We know that hurricanes also accomplish good (e.g., redistributing heat into the upper atmosphere)
- K. "Coming near, they fully awakened Him"
 1. This wouldn't be essentially different than the psalmist praying, "Don't be deaf to me," Ps 28:1; 35:22; 39:12; 69:17; 83:1; 143:7
 2. These don't mean the psalmist believes God won't hear. But it does mean God can *seem* like He's not listening.
- L. "Overseer! Overseer!"
 1. Only a Luke word, *7x*, *epistateis*, Literally, "Stand over."

Supervisor; boss.

- a. Mark has *didaskalos*, “Instructor”
 - b. Matthew has *kurios*, “Master/ Lord”
 - c. Meaning they said all 3, probably loudly and hurriedly!
2. “Boss man! What’ll we do?!”
 3. Its first use was also at sea, and maybe a tad snarky, Lk 5:5

Kid-speak: The disciples called Jesus “Boss.” Is He boss?
Yup. He’s boss of everything. But is He *your* boss?

M. “We are perishing!”

1. They had probably spent at least a few moments trying to control the situation, but what can be done with water overwhelming the boat?
2. They were not exaggerating. However, *should they be in panic mode?*

N. “And being fully awakened”

1. Same compound word for their waking of Him. What they sought from Him, He did.
- ★ 2. That’s what we’re seeking in revival, except *we’re mainly trying to align **our** senses with the spiritual danger our nonchalance has grown accustomed to.* Hab 3:2

O. “He reprimanded the wind”

1. Again, not a reprimand of Satan, but the wind itself
2. But how can the wind ‘listen’? (As the disciples were about to wonder). How can a person speak wind lingo?

P. “And the surging of the water”

1. That is, the waters’ rolling pattern would have only gradually subsided on their own, even without the wind
 - a. So Jesus controlled both the wind *and* the waves
 - b. As far as psi, etc., which work involved more force?
2. As earthlings, we are ‘familiar’ with wind and waves, but we *don’t* know any forces that can simply reach in a ‘switch them off’. This was **dumbfounding**.
3. Can you take the miracles out of the Bible and still have a Bible? No.

Q. “And a calm occurred”

1. Matthew and Mark say “a GREAT calm,” making us envision its instantaneous, complete imposition
2. As has been noted, Christ does not always calm our adversities, but He always promises to calm **us** in them

- a. That is, if we are trusting Him, Philip 4:6
- ◆ b. When emotionally overwhelmed, a great calm seems just as impossible to us as a huge storm just stopping

Kid-speak: Do you ever get really worried or scared about something? Yeah, we all do. What can make us stop being afraid? Remembering that Jesus is more powerful than whatever is worrying us.

Luke 8:25 And He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

But they marveled, having feared, saying to one another, “Who then is this *One*, that He orders even the winds and the water, and they submit Him?”

- R. JESUS FOCUSES ON HIS PUPILS’ unbelief. They had not learned well what He had taught thus far.
- 1. To restate it a little, though: JESUS FOCUSES ON HIS PUPILS. They were His concern. We are His concern.
 - 2. We are in His school until we ‘graduate’ to glorification
 - 3. These pupils, we note, were fine to just move on after this
 - a. They didn’t take this as a signal to quit
 - b. If Jesus is directing us to an area needing change, He *hasn’t* give up on us. That’s encouraging!
- S. “Where is your faith?”
- 1. Meaning that their faith had gone missing
 - a. As Mark, “Why are you so fearful? Why is it you do not have faith?” Mk 4:40
 - b. In Matthew 8:26, it sounds like Jesus asked them, “Why are you afraid, little-faiths?” *before* He rebuked the elements- meaning He did both
 - c. Also meaning that all 3 authors accurately represented what Jesus said, as part of a more extended discourse
 - 2. They *had* experienced and expressed faith in Him, following Him, but faith was not manifested in *this* incident
 - 3. That’s a high bar for faith! I’m not supposed to panic in a life-threatening situation?
 - ☑ a. Ah, but if Jesus can’t deliver my *physical* life, how can He deliver my *soul* from Hell?
 - b. A perfectly legitimate test: responses to the *physical* tell our status as well as our purely *spiritual* responses.

4. What scares you most? Sit it down in front of Jesus. Will He let it destroy you? Even harm you in any ultimate way?
 - a. To whatever degree He gives you into the hands of a trial (which process = the norm, Jms 1:2), He promises to be with you, **teaching** you IN/ THROUGH the trial
 - b. If you're there to learn and trust, you'll do fine, however many times you need to address your fear

Kid-speak: Is faith easy to lose? Yes, but how do we find it again? Find Jesus again.

- T. "But they marveled, having feared, saying to one another, "Who is this, that He orders even the winds and the water, and they submit to Him?"
- U. "Who is this?"
 1. Ps 107: 28, 1. It's Yahweh, Creator God.
 2. How fully did they know this yet?
- V. Regardless, they had a new awakening. As different as they *already* knew Jesus was, He had now taken His mystery up a notch.
 1. Not unlike when we finally see Him face to face. We know Him now, but *not like we will then!*
 2. It's a *good* thing to be surprised by Jesus! It means we're learning! But we shouldn't have to keep RElearning through unbelief.
 3. What was different between this and Jesus having known where the catch of fish would be, 5:4-5?
 - a. There, He was possibly 'simply' aware of the fishes' whereabouts. Still, an extraordinary power. Peter feared on that occasion as well, 5:8
 - b. Here, wind and bodies of water are inanimate. He had to have direct counter-force over them.
 - c. Yes, that's beyond impressive. It's frightening.
 4. This also tells us that Jesus had an unassuming character. No bragging or side 'magic tricks'. This deed was unexpected.
 - a. Reminding us that miracles have a very specific niche in Christian history and experience
 - b. Beware of those who try to 'pull them out of the hat' outside their Scriptural range
 5. Hey! Why won't Jesus just command ME to be still?
 - a. You have *authority* to obey, Jn 1:12

b. It is a royal birth option, Jn 1:13. Live up to it.

Kid-speak: Are we supposed to say, “I will not be afraid”? Yes, Ps 3:6; 56:11; 118:6; Isa 12:2

V. For the Walking Wounded (1 Thess 5:14, “Uphold the strengthless”) Remember, mustard seed sized faith is sufficient.

VI. Conviction (2 Tim 4:2, “Convince, rebuke”): **What have I done wrong? How have I lost righteousness?**

What is the stress level at which I forget to trust God? (No coffee?)

VII. Correction/ Realignment (2 Tim 4:2, “Exhort/encourage”): **How will I correct my error? How will I regain uprightness?**

I will gauge my spiritual maturity by that tolerance level.

VIII. Schooling in Righteousness: **How do I take this on the road?**
“Lord, the unexpected can’t take me by surprise if I never leave Your presence and peace.”

Wrap-up: “Who then is this?” Those who know Jesus sometimes realize an area where they had not really grasped something about Him fully. Perhaps His love simply becomes more real and precious.

The Gospels and the NT complete the record of what we need to know about Him. Now it’s mainly a matter of all of it ‘dawning’ on us, mostly a little at a time. Isn’t that the main excitement of the Christian life?

Does it always take a crisis to open our eyes that little bit more? James 1:2 seems to indicate that indeed it might. But it’s mainly God’s carpenter work in our souls, enlarging our cramped hearts, Eph 3:16-17. Something to pray for every day for ourselves and one another.