

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

Day 1- Read Luke 8

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 8:25 "He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and water, and they obey him?'"*

Day 2- Luke 8:1-21

Scholar's Note: "In first-century Jewish culture, women were usually treated as second class-citizens with few of the rights men had. In Jewish culture women were not supposed to learn from rabbis."¹

1. From the information in verses 2-3, how are the ethics of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed and lived out different from the cultural and religious tenets of Jesus' time and of our day? (See 1 Cor. 1:27 and Galatians 3:28 for help)

Scholar's Note: "[The parable of the Sower] marked a major turning point. From this time on Jesus spoke to the crowds only in parables (Matt. 13: 34). That was a deliberate act of judgment on His part. Those who would not believe now could not; the fools who hated knowledge (Prov. 1: 22) were deprived of it. By presenting His teaching in parables, Jesus hid the truth from rejecting unbelievers and revealed it only to His faithful followers."²

2. What are the things in verses 13 and 14 that help determine that the hearers are not truly saved?
3. What are two marks of genuine faith found in v.15?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses and label each with your answer in number 3. Each word will be used twice.

John 8:31 "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples."(HCSB) –

Colossians 1:23 [Those who are reconciled to God] "...continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel..."-

John 15:8 "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples."-

James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."-

4. In verses 1-21 some form of the word *hear* is mentioned 9 times. What warning does Jesus give in verse 18a?

For Discussion: What are some ways you can take care how you hear?

5. In 18c Jesus speaks of judgment for people who have willfully hardened their hearts to hearing what Jesus says. What is it the parable teaches that they think they have in verses 11-14?

6. How does Jesus define who his family is in verse 21?

-What are the implications of this?

Day 3- Luke 8:22-25

7. According to verse 23, how much of a crisis was this?

Scholar's Note: [The Greek word] *Lailaps* (fierce gale) describes a powerful storm, potentially one with hurricane force winds.³

8. Why do you think Jesus could be sound asleep in such dire circumstances?

9. Why does Jesus expect them to have faith in such a fearful circumstance?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

Psalm 65:5-7

*"By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation,
the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas;
the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might;
who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,"*

Psalm 89:9

"You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them."

Psalm 107:24-30

*"they saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep.
For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.
They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths;
their courage melted away in their evil plight;
they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.
He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.
Then they were glad that the waters were quiet,
and he brought them to their desired haven."*

-How do these Psalms explain why the disciples (who knew the Psalms and the history of the Hebrews crossing the dead sea) were afraid and marveling in verse 25?



From the disciple's perspective, theirs and Jesus' lives were in real danger. And humanly speaking it was true. The disciples were really murky about what God's redemptive plan was; in fact they didn't understand it at all. They were still operating on the earthly, conquering king, Messiah plan.

Apparently, knowing and understanding God's plan wasn't a prerequisite for faith, according to Jesus. Jesus expected his disciples to have faith because they knew him, and he was with them.

R. Kent Hughes, in his Luke commentary, says that in their fear, the disciples had "abandoned all spiritual logic". Fear does that. In God's kingdom fear seems to be the opposite of faith. Just a few verses ahead we hear Jesus say to a man whose daughter died, "Don't be afraid, just believe." In the chaotic and frightening storms of our lives, we rarely understand what God is doing, but we fight fear by reminding ourselves who God is and by depending on his promises.

- ❖ How have you ever abandoned spiritual logic because of fear?

- ❖ How is fear the opposite of faith?

- ❖ Do you have any promises of God hidden in your heart that you can easily call to mind to depend on daily or in a storm? If the answer is no, consider remedying this. Ask your disciple or a godly friend for help.

Day 4- Luke 8:26-39

10. What is the fruit of Satan that you see in this incident?

-What is the fruit of Jesus' healing power? (See Mark 5:1-20 for more details on the same miracle)

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*Matthew 8:29 "And behold, they cried out, 'What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us **before the time?**'"*

Matthew 25:41 "Then he will say to those on his left, Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

-With the above verses for context how do the demons show in our Luke passage that they know Jesus has absolute power over them?

Scholar's Note: "Legion" was not normally used as a proper name. It refers to a Roman military unit consisting of thousands of soldiers (the precise number varied). Thus "Legion" implies that there were many demons.⁴

11. What is so odd about verse 35?

12. The Greek word that is translated *fear* in verse 37 refers to extreme fear, dread or terror. Why do you think the people preferred a crazed, demon possessed man in their proximity but did not want Jesus near them?

13. How does Jesus' absolute power over such vast, destructive forces of evil impact you?

Day 5- Luke 8:40-56

14. As a ruler of the synagogue, Jairus was in charge of all that went on in the

Synagogue; he was dedicated to Judaism and a respected leader. What was surprising about the way Jairus approached Jesus in verse 41?

-What emotion do you imagine brought him to this point?

-How did Jesus respond?

15. How do you think Jairus must have felt about the pressing crowds and Jesus stopping to see who had touched him?

Scholar's Note: "According to Leviticus 15: 19– 27, a woman with a bleeding problem like hers was ceremonially unclean for as long as the condition persisted. That meant that she could not go to the temple, or attend the synagogue. No one in her family could touch her or anything she touched or they too would become ceremonially unclean. She was an outcast, both in society and in her own family."⁵

16. The word used for *touch* in the Greek means to fasten oneself to, adhere to, or cling to. What was it that drove this poor woman, who was not allowed to touch another human being, out into the crowds to find Jesus?

17. Why does Jesus want people to come to him desperate and needy?

18. Why do you think Jesus was not content to let the woman remain anonymous?

Scholar's Note: "The phrase *made you well* translates a form of the verb *sōzō*, which is the common New Testament word for salvation. This same phrase in the Greek text appears in Luke 7: 50, where it clearly refers to salvation from sin."⁶



You can't blame the woman who had been bleeding for twelve years for wanting to remain hidden. It was embarrassing and humiliating. She wanted Jesus' healing but she was hoping to remain unnoticed. But Jesus isn't an impersonal God- he's about relationship, he looks us in the eyes, he takes us by the hand, he calls us by name.

She wanted physical healing but Jesus wanted more than that for her. He wanted the crowd to know she was no longer unclean; she was physically healed. And he wanted her to know she was spiritually healed by his grace through her faith and she was now his daughter and had peace with God. So he called to her to step out of the shadows, out of her safe, hidden place, out of her comfort zone and he gave her more, for his glory and her good.

- ❖ In what ways do fear and faith coexist in your heart?

- ❖ How does it make you feel that Jesus often does more for us than we ask?

- ❖ Is it a main concern of yours in the events and circumstances of your life, how you can glorify God?

- ❖ Are you willing to step out of your comfort zone when God asks you to?

19. How was this interruption, which was likely excruciating to Jairus, for his good?

20. Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid but to believe. Jairus' daughter's healing did not depend on his faith; Jesus healed many people who did not have faith. What was Jesus drawing him to?

21. How does Jesus' power over death impact you?

Picture and Ponder: Of all the impressive miracles He could have done to prove that He was God, Jesus chose to do those that relieved people's suffering. Instead of flying off the pinnacle of the temple, He rescued His terrified disciples from a life-threatening storm. Instead of instantly creating a cow or a horse, He created food for thousands of hungry people. Instead of lifting up a

mountain and casting it into the sea, He healed the sick and raised the dead. His choice of miracles revealed not only Jesus' deity, but also His divine compassion.⁷

One Thing: Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

¹ Chronological Life Application Study Bible, 2012 Tyndale House Publishers

² MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 11026-11029). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

³ Ibid

⁴ Expositor's Commentary

⁵ MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 11026-11029). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

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