



STORIES OF LIFE!

The Gospel of Luke

The Story of Two Storms

Luke 8:22-39

Message #27 of 50 – S806

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Sunday Morning Service

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The Story of Two Storms

Luke 8:22-39

Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 8**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- In my life I have been caught in a number of storms
- Some while I was in the Navy and some while fishing
- So, it helps me to relate to the beginning of our text today, as we see Jesus and the disciples in a boat during a storm
- In the second half of our text, Jesus encounters a man in the midst of a spiritual storm
- While the spiritual storms of our life will likely be different than this man's, how Jesus handles both situations can help us as we try to navigate the storms of our lives
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Story of Two Storms**
- Our text begins with Jesus telling the disciples to take a boat trip
- **Luke 8:22**
- Mark's account of this says that it took place in the evening
- After a full day of ministry, teaching and healing, they set out across the lake
- At least four of the disciples were seasoned fishermen, and fishing at night was common
- They were not expecting what comes next
- **Luke 8:23**
- First, Jesus falls asleep – that is not that unusual – He was human, the day's work wore Him out
- Then the windstorm comes – also not unusual for that area
- But even the seasoned fishermen are rattled by this storm
- Where is Jesus?
- **Luke 8:24a**

- Mark’s gospel records them saying, ‘Don’t you care that we are perishing?’
- They interpret Jesus sleeping through the storm as indifference on His part – not ever true
- This teaches us two things about Jesus
- First, in His incarnation, He had the same weaknesses we do physically – He was exhausted by the day’s work
- Second, we see His absolute dependence upon the Father – He trusted God would wake Him up if He was needed
- This is a picture of something Paul wrote about later **Philippians 4:6-7**

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Jesus knew God had called Him to cross over to the other side
- Believed that God would get Him there – trusted God completely
- The disciples wake up Jesus from His peaceful trusting sleep
- **Luke 8:24b**
- The word ‘rebuked’ is often used by Jesus when dealing with unclean spirits or demons, which suggests that this storm was not natural
- In the OT book of Job, we learn that Satan is sometimes allowed to control the elements
- The response is immediate, they ceased and there was calm
- From raging storm to flat calm
- The disciples are blown away
- **Luke 8:25**
- “Where is your faith?” – they had seen Jesus do so many miraculous things – asking, why don’t you trust God
- You could see Me trusting God (asleep), why couldn’t you?
- Turn to **Psalm 107**
- They ask, ‘Who can this be?’ – still not sure who Jesus is
- By doing what He just did, He is proving exactly who He is
- Notice how closely this psalm parallels what we just read
- **Psalm 107:24-29**
- Their own Scriptures point to the reality that He is the Lord – God

- Turn back to **Luke 8**
- The disciples are a little slow picking up on who Jesus is
- The next person we encounter knows exactly who Jesus is
- We move from a terrifying situation to a terrifying person
- **Luke 8:26-27**
- The disciples are delivered from a physical storm and are immediately confronted by a spiritual storm
- A naked man approaches them, he is filthy, and his body is cut and scarred where he has cut himself with stones
- It is likely that today he would be diagnosed with some kind of mental illness, but that is not what Doctor Luke tells us – this guy has demons
- Before we continue we should address the matter of demons
- The Devil and demons are real – they are created beings who once were angels – they joined Satan in his rebellion against God
- They are spiritual creatures who have the ability to affect the physical world
- They are as real today as they were when Jesus walked on the earth
- There are two unhealthy extremes – deny the existence of Satan and demons or to become overly fascinated with them
- This poor man has been possessed by demons for a long time
- Possessed = they move into a person, take control
- As Christians, we need never fear that happening to us
- God, the Holy Spirit is in us – no room for anyone else
- Notice what this man does when he sees Jesus
- **Luke 8:28-29**
- We will see in a minute that this is not the man speaking, but one of the demons in him
- As soon as he sees Jesus, he lets out a blood-curdling scream – terror
- Fell down before – recognizes Jesus’ authority over him
- ‘What do I have to do with You?’ – picture of Satan’s rebellion
- ‘Jesus, Son of the Most High God’ – disciples asked ‘Who can this be?’ – Demon knows! And trembles!
- ‘I beg You, do not torment me!’ – Matthew’s gospel = ‘before the time’ – He knows his future destiny **Revelation 20:10**

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- Also knows this is not the time that is supposed to happen
- This poor man has been tormented, in a spiritual storm, for a long time by these demons, and with a word, Jesus commands them to come out of him
- Then we find out just how bad it is for this poor man
- **Luke 8:30**
- ‘Legion’ – to someone of that day, that would have been a very telling name
- A Roman Legion consisted of about 6,000 soldiers
- An unimaginable amount of torment this poor man endured
- Jesus can’t let it continue
- **Luke 8:31-32**
- The ‘abyss’ = the bottomless pit – several times in the book of Revelation
- Where Satan is chained for the 1,000 reign of Christ on earth
- Instead Jesus allowed them to go into a large herd of swine – Mark’s gospel = about 2,000 – one or more demons each
- **Luke 8:33**
- Two thousand pigs could not contain the demons who had possessed this man – drove them mad – to their deaths to escape
- The keepers of the pigs ran to tell people
- **Luke 8:34-37**
- It is impossible to know with any certainty what they are thinking
- They know something remarkable has happening
- The man with the demons had terrorized them for many years now there he was clothed, in his right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus
- Then as they looked past them to the water, there are the bodies of two thousand pigs floating dead – that was their livelihood
- As they look at the man freed from the demons, they see the cost was too high for them
- The ask Jesus to leave – and, amazingly, He does
- But before He goes
- **Luke 8:38-39**

- It is not surprising that he wants to go with Jesus
- Jesus tells him, ‘no!’ go home, tell everyone what God has done for you
- This guy had a radical story to tell – Jesus told him to go tell it
- Later, Jesus came back to this area, was welcomed – maybe because of this man’s testimony
- From this story of two storms we learn a couple of things about Jesus
- In the first storm Jesus commanded the wind and seas to be still and they obeyed
- We don’t have to explain it (can’t) – Jesus is in absolute control over this universe **Colossians 1:16-17**

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

- When we pray, we are praying to a God who is not limited by our understanding of reality – He is the God of the impossible
- Second, Jesus has authority over the spiritual realm
- Most humans have little or no awareness of the spiritual realm all around them
- They are mostly, if not completely, blind to the reality that there are good and evil forces at work around us
- Turn to **Ephesians 6**
- We don’t have to be frightened by the thought of demons – we have the Holy Spirit, if we are saved **1 John 4:4**

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- In 2 Corinthians 2, Paul tells us not to be ignorant of Satan’s tactics
- Then Paul tells us here
- **Ephesians 6:11-13**
- When you find yourself in a physical storm, look for Jesus, if He is not freaking out, neither should you
- Trust Him to get you where He is taking you – rest in Him – ask Him to calm the storm – if He doesn’t, trust Him
- When you find yourself in a spiritual storm – run to Jesus and ask Him to deliver you
- Jesus is greater than any storm that can come into your life

- There were two endings to these two stories of storms
- The disciples survived the storm and ended up where Jesus wanted them to go
- The man with the demons was set free, he was whole, he was clothed – no more shame, in his right mind
- Trust Jesus to get you where He is leading you and go to Him and He will make you whole
- Storms, physical or spiritual are no match for the master of time and space – in your storms – look for Jesus! He is there! He is always there!
- **Pray!**