

'On the road'

Luke's account of the life and ministry of Jesus

Luke is up front about his intention in writing his gospel record: it was to help a man called Theophilus to have the confidence to trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour. He wanted to bolster the embryonic faith of this man in the face of both the hostility he was likely to face and the adversity which almost certainly would be his experience.

The aim of this study of Luke's gospel, therefore, is to help us all "*fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*", to the end that we "*run with perseverance the race marked out for us*" (see Heb.12.1-2)

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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11. Luke 8.22-56 [w/b Sunday 22nd April 2018]

“.. Don't be afraid; just believe ...”

This is the central passage in a block of five such passages comprising the third major section of Luke's gospel (7.1-9.50), a section which I've entitled 'Miracles'. In this central passage Luke records two pairs of related incidents in which the miraculous power of Jesus is demonstrated.

Keep in mind the concern Luke had in writing this account (see Luke 1.1-4) and be mindful throughout this study of the ways in which Luke's narrative furthers that end. May this study leave you knowing more of 'the certainty of the things you have been taught'!

[There may not be time for all the questions to be addressed in your Community Group - but try and ensure that in this study you cover questions 2, 4, and 6. As always try to leave good time for shared prayer - and let the passage inform your praying together!]

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1. Read Luke 8.22-56 Read the whole. Try envisaging what it would be like to read this for the first time, as the original recipient of the book, Theophilus, would have been doing.

Although the situations described vary considerably what do they have in common?

What do you think Luke would have wanted Theophilus to learn from the incidents recorded here?

2. **Read Luke 8.22-25.** The disciples (some of whom were experienced sailors) were clearly afraid that this storm would see them all drown.

The disciples may have thought they were *exercising* faith in waking Jesus: what is it about their response which Jesus saw as a *lack* of faith on their part?

How do you react in a 'storm'?

3. **Read Luke 8.26-33.** The storm at sea mirrored the storm in the experience of a demon-possessed man on the far (eastern) side of the lake of Galilee.

What can you learn from this incident about the ways in which the powers of darkness spoil our experience?

Read **Leviticus 11.7**: what does the presence of a herd of pigs tell you about this area?

Why do you think Jesus asked the man his name?

4. **Read Luke 8.34-39.** These verses record the reaction of the people of that area to the deliverance effected by Jesus.

How do *you* react to this narrative?

In what three ways is the man described? How do these descriptions help us understand the impact of the gospel on our lives?

What lies behind the *fear* which prompted the people to ask Jesus to leave?

5. **Read Luke 8.40-42.** The synagogue leader is about as far removed from the demoniac as you could imagine: but he, too, faced a distressing situation for which he had no remedy.

This respected man was certainly facing a major crisis: what would have prompted him to act as he does in this crisis and turn to Jesus for help?

Has there been a 'crisis' of some sort in your life which has brought you to the feet of Jesus?

6. Read Luke 8.43-48. There was clearly an urgency in Jairus' plea to Jesus for help: but the progress of Jesus to Jairus' house was interrupted by another remarkable healing en route.

A woman in the crowd touched the edge of His garment and experienced Jesus' healing power: why did Jesus occasion a critical delay for Jairus by insisting that the woman made herself known?

What do Jesus' words in v.46 tell you about the nature of the power He has?

7. Read Luke 8.49-56. Even as the woman was restored to fullness of life, news came that Jairus' daughter had lost her battle for life. Luke means us to see the drama of the moment.

What would have been your emotions at this news had you been Jairus?

'Faith' is clearly an important theme for Luke in 8.22-56 (see vv.25, 48 & 50): what lessons might we learn about the sort of faith which Luke wants to encourage?