

Lesson 8

Luke 8

Power Over Nature, Demons, & Death

Note: *In our Lord's day, women were looked upon as inferior and were often kept in seclusion. Jesus not only healed, forgave, and restored them to life; he raised women to a level of dignity, honor, and service beyond all they had known.*

1. Luke mentions women in his gospel more than the other evangelists. In Chapter 8, Luke talks about three particular women who supported Jesus' ministry. What were their names, and how did they support or assist in Jesus' ministry? (Luke 8:1-3)
2. *Challenge:* Luke is the first gospel writer to introduce Mary Magdalene. (Luke 8:2) The other three never mention her before the crucifixion of Jesus. Can you think what reason Luke might have had for introducing her in Chapter 8, right after the story of the woman who appeared at Simon's dinner party? (Luke 7:36-38)

Note: *A parable compares something familiar to something unfamiliar to help understand the unfamiliar.*

3. All three synoptic writers tell Jesus' parable of the sower.
 - a. What do the seeds represent? (Luke 8:11)
 - b. Compare how each evangelist describes seed that falls on good ground. (Luke 8:15; Matt 13:23; Mark 4:20)
4. What reasons might Jesus have for speaking to the crowds only in parables and afterwards explaining their unfamiliar meaning only to the apostles? (Luke 8:9-10; Matt 13:10-13; Mark 4:10-12)
5. The parable of the lamp explains Jesus' teaching strategy, where the mysteries of the kingdom will be temporarily hidden from the multitudes. As Jesus' message becomes known, they will come to light. What is our responsibility in sharing the message of the gospel? (CCC 904, 905, 906, 907)
6. *Reflection:* Do you think Jesus was denying his relationship to Mary, His mother, or was He trying to tell us some things are more important than family? What would His meaning be? (Luke 8:21; Luke 6:35; John 1:12-13; Rom 8:29)
7. The story of the demoniac is a long and detailed one. Describe the physical appearance of this "man of the city" when Jesus first encountered him and after the demons left his body. (Luke 8:27-29; 35)
8. What can we learn about Jesus in the story about the woman who bled for twelve years? (Luke 8:43-48)
9. Describe how Jesus' initial encounter with the synagogue leader (Luke 8:41-42) differs from his initial encounter with the centurion in the previous chapter. (Luke 8:7:1-5) If one of your family was dying, would you approach Jesus like Jairus, the synagogue leader, or like the centurion?
10. Why do you think Jesus chose to take Peter, James, and John with him to the synagogue leader's house? (Luke 8:51)

If you would like a challenge?

11. Three episodes in Chapter 8 highlight the power of Jesus' word: At his command, raging storms are stilled (8:24); demons are cast out (Luke 8:29), and the dead are raised to new life. (Luke 8:54) How can the "Word" of Jesus help to calm the storms, trials, and tribulations in your life?