

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#18 - Calming the Storm & Driving Out Demons Luke 8:19-39

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 18-1 Jesus calming the storm
- 18-2 Jesus and the demon-possessed man

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What are the four types of soil the seed falls on? What happens to the seed in each of the types of soil?
- **Big Question Review:** What does it take to produce a good crop? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 8:15
The truth planted in a good and noble heart will produce a good crop.

But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

After Jesus shared the parable of the seed and sower his brothers and his mother came to see him. It is known from the Gospel of John (John 7:1-5) that at this time his brothers knew of the miracles Jesus performed, but they didn't believe in him as the Messiah. Luke relates what Jesus said when they came to see him.

Luke 8:19-21

¹⁹Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

²¹He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

What does Jesus mean when he says, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice" ? Those who believe and follow God become part of Jesus' family, the family of God. Jesus wants all people to be part of his family.

Luke 8:22-25 (picture 18-1)

²²One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. ²³As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Why did the disciples wake Jesus up? There was a squall on the lake and they were in danger.

What is a squall? A sudden violent gust of wind or localized storm bringing rain, snow or sleet.

The disciples called Jesus master when they woke him up. What did that show? They knew that they were under his authority. They served him, not the other way around.

How did Jesus calm the squall? He rebuked the wind and water.

What does rebuke mean? Reprimand, speak commandingly to in the form of correction.

What does that show? The wind and the sea were under his authority. He has control over the physical world. God spoke (commanded) the world into existence. His word is what causes things to be. Jesus' power over creation shows that he is God.

Why did he challenge the disciples by asking, "Where is your faith?" They didn't understand the fullness of who he was and didn't trust that he would watch over them and

protect them. They were full of fear. Their eyes were set on their situation rather than on Jesus and his power.

How did the disciples respond to what Jesus did? In fear and amazement, they questioned each other. They were still confused as to who he was. They didn't quite get it. All that Jesus was doing and saying was still beyond their ability to comprehend. They didn't recognize that Jesus was fully God with power over the physical world.

Luke 8:26-33 (picture 18-2)

²⁶They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

³²A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. ³³When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

What does it mean to be demon-possessed? Satan and the evil spirits that follow him have taken a person's mind captive.

What was the demon-possessed man like? Crazy, supernaturally strong, isolated from people, tormented

What did the demons in the man cause him to recognize about Jesus? That he was the Son of God. What does that teach you? The demons knew what others failed to recognize about Jesus, but they didn't submit to him. A person can know who Jesus is and not submit to him. That puts them in the same position as Satan. Knowledge of Jesus needs to become faith in him for who he is, the Son of God, and submission to his authority as God.

What did the demons beg Jesus not to do? Not to send them into the Abyss. They were begging Jesus because they knew he had power over them. Like his power over the winds and waves (the physical realm) Jesus also has power over the spiritual realm.

What do you think is the Abyss? The abyss is where Satan the evil spirits that follow him will ultimately be confined. (Rev. 9:1) On earth an abyss is a deep, immeasurable space, gulf, or cavity; a vast chasm, a hole or break in the ground.

Luke 8:34-39

³⁴When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at

Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

How did the people find the demon-possessed man? Dressed and in his right mind

What does it mean to be in a right mind? He was released from the grip of Satan and put into a right relationship with God. He could see and understand life as it really is.

How did the people respond to Jesus and what he did? They were afraid and wanted him to go away.

Why would they want him to go away? They didn't want to deal with who he might be. They wanted to stay ignorant. When something doesn't fit with our view of reality we don't want to accept it. We try to reconstruct it or excuse it away so we don't have to believe and accept it.

What should fear of God cause in us? It should cause us to seek God and create in us a desire to know him better and discover who he is and what is right to do. We should want to turn away from our sin and to please God.

How did the man who had the demons respond to what Jesus did? He wanted to stay with Jesus. He wanted to be with the one who had given him his life back.

What did Jesus tell him to do? Go back to his home and tell others about the change in his life because of what God did. He was to speak the truth to those he knew.

The Decapolis, the area where this healing occurred, was Gentile territory. Who is a Gentile? A Gentile is anyone who is not a Jew. Jews wouldn't have eaten or touched pigs. The people who saw what happened must have been Gentiles.

What had Simeon prophesied about Jesus when he was dedicated in the temple as a baby (Luke 2:32)? Simeon said that Jesus would be a light of revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to God's people Israel.

From these accounts we see that Jesus has power over both the physical and spiritual realms. Why is that? He is the creator and sustainer of all things. He has power over his creation.

Colossians 1:16-17 says, ¹⁶*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

What do these verses mean? Not only is Jesus the creator of all that exists, he is the one who keeps it all together. Without Jesus, there would be nothing.

Each person has an opportunity to believe the truth about Jesus and embrace him as Lord and Savior or reject the truth and send Jesus away.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** Why were the disciples afraid in the storm? What did Jesus do to the wind and sea? How did the disciples respond to that? Why was the demon possessed man called Legion? What did the demon possessed man know about Jesus? What did Jesus do for him? What was his response to Jesus?
- **Thought Questions:** What would it have been like to be with Jesus and see him calm the sea? What would it have been like to see him drive out the demons? Do most people want to see or know the truth about themselves? How do you know? Do you want to see the truth about yourself? How do you know? Why do we like being in darkness? Under whose power are we when we stay in darkness? How?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that he sent his Son to show us the way, the truth and the light and release us from the power of Satan. Pray that you would fully understand who Jesus is and devote yourself to him. Thank him that he has power over all things, both in the physical and spiritual realms.
- **The Big Question: Why does Jesus have power over creation?**
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Colossians 1:16-17**
Jesus created all things and holds them together.

¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Questions: Who is Jesus? What is under his power?

ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Jesus has power over both the physical and spiritual worlds.

1. When a storm came up and almost swamped the boat, Jesus commanded the wind and the sea to be calm and they obeyed him.
2. Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the demon-possessed man and they obeyed him and entered the pigs who ran over a cliff.

3. People were amazed and afraid of Jesus and the things he did and wanted him to go away.

Why do I need to know this? When I see who Jesus is, I can either fall down at his feet and want to follow him or try to escape him (send him away). I can either let his light shine in me and drive out darkness or remain in the dark under Satan's power.

★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.

★ **Activity Page:** Unscramble the phrases

Instructions: Unscramble the phrases to reveal some of the things the disciples would have said about what Jesus does that show who he is.

Heals Centurion's servant
Raises widow's son
Forgives woman's sin
Calms the storm

Drives out demons
Heals the paralytic
Cures leprosy
Teaches people truth

★ **Further Understanding:** Bible Study Skills

Instructions:

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

Colossians 1:15-20 Jesus created all things and holds them together.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in every thing he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Questions: Who is Jesus? What does he have power over?

JOURNAL

The daily journal inside the booklet has six readings that relate to a theme. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Journal Focus: Why does Jesus have power over all things?

Reading 1: Ephesians 1:15-23 God has placed all things under Jesus.
What does Jesus have power over?

Reading 2: Hebrews 1:1-4 Jesus is the exact representation of the Father.
What does Jesus have power over?

Reading 3: Isaiah 40:21-24 Jesus sits enthroned on high.
What does Jesus have power over?

Reading 4: Isaiah 40:25-31 Jesus is the everlasting God
What power does Jesus have?

Reading 5: Jeremiah 10:12-16 Creation responds to Jesus' voice.
What does Jesus have power over?

Reading 6: Colossians 1:15-20 Jesus created all things and holds them together.
What does Jesus have power over?