CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Luke Chapter 8 —

Parables, Power, and Faith

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Luke Chapter 8 shows the power of God's Word and the power of Jesus.

It begins with the women who traveled with Jesus and supported His ministry.

Then Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower, teaching how different hearts receive God's Word.

He teaches about a lamp on a stand and about His true family.

Then Luke shows four mighty works, one after another.

Jesus calms a storm.

He frees a man possessed by many demons.

He heals a woman who had suffered for twelve years.

And He raises a twelve-year-old girl from the dead.

Nature, demons, disease, and death all obey Him.

The question the disciples ask in the storm runs through the whole chapter: Who is this?

The chapter moves through seven movements:

- Women Who Supported Jesus (verses 1–3).
- The Parable of the Sower (verses 4–15).
- The Lamp and the Light (verses 16–18).
- Jesus' True Family (verses 19–21).
- Jesus Calms the Storm (verses 22–25).
- The Demon-Possessed Man Healed (verses 26–39).
- Jairus' Daughter and the Woman Healed (verses 40–56).

The central truth of Luke 8 is:

God's Word bears fruit in hearts that hear, hold on, and obey, and Jesus has power over nature, demons, disease, and death, calling for faith instead of fear.

I. TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Luke 8:1 — Proclaiming the Kingdom

“Soon afterward, Jesus traveled through towns and villages, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him,”

“Jesus traveled through towns and villages.”

He went to the people.

“Proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.”

This was His central message.

“The twelve were with Him.”

They were learning by being with Him.

Cross References

Matthew 4:23

> Jesus went all through Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every kind of sickness.

Mark 1:14

> After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the good news from God.

Luke 4:43

> I must tell the good news of God's kingdom in other towns too, because that is why I was sent.

Spiritual Principle

The good news is meant to be carried from place to place.

Key Truth

Disciples learn by being with Jesus.

II. WOMEN WHO HAD BEEN HEALED

Luke 8:2 — Mary Magdalene

“along with some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses—Mary Magdalene (from whom seven demons had gone out),”

“Some women who had been healed.”

Women traveled with Jesus.

In that culture, this was unusual.

Luke honors their place in His ministry.

“Mary Magdalene.”

From the town of Magdala.

“From whom seven demons had gone out.”

Jesus had set her completely free.

The Bible never says she was a prostitute.

That idea came much later and is not in Scripture.

She became the first witness of the resurrection.

Cross References

Mark 16:9

> Early on Sunday morning, after Jesus came back to life, the first person He showed Himself to was Mary Magdalene. He had once forced seven demons out of her.

John 20:11

> Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

Luke 24:10

> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told these things to the apostles.

Spiritual Principle

Those Jesus sets free become devoted followers.

Key Truth

Women held an honored place among Jesus' followers.

III. THEY SUPPORTED HIM

Luke 8:3 — From Their Own Resources

“Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, Susanna, and many others. They supported Him from their own resources.”

“Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward.”

Her husband managed Herod's household.

The gospel reached even into the palace.

“Susanna, and many others.”

“They supported Him from their own resources.”

They gave their money to support Jesus and the twelve.

Their generosity made the ministry possible.

Cross References

Mark 15:41

> In Galilee these women had followed Jesus and cared for His needs. Many other women who had come up with Him to Jerusalem were also there.

Matthew 27:55

> Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for Him.

Romans 16:1

> I recommend to you our sister Phoebe, who serves the church in Cenchreae.

Spiritual Principle

Generous giving supports the work of the gospel.

Key Truth

Behind public ministry stand faithful, generous supporters.

IV. A LARGE CROWD

Luke 8:4 — This Parable

“When a large crowd had gathered from every town, Jesus told this parable:”

“A large crowd had gathered.”

Many came.

But not all would truly receive His word.

“Jesus told this parable.”

A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

It invites the listener to think.

Cross References

Matthew 13:2

> Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it, while the people stood on the shore.

Mark 4:1

> A very large crowd gathered around Him by the lake.

Matthew 13:3

> Then He told them many things in stories. He said, “A farmer went out to plant seed.”

Spiritual Principle

A large crowd does not mean every heart is open.

Key Truth

Jesus taught deep truths through simple stories.

V. ALONG THE PATH

Luke 8:5 — Trampled and Eaten

““A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled, and the birds ate it up.”

“A farmer went out to sow his seed.”

Farmers scattered seed by hand.

“Some fell along the path.”

Hard ground beaten down by feet.

“Was trampled, and the birds ate it up.”

The seed never got into the soil.

Cross References

Matthew 13:4

> As he scattered the seed, some fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it.

Mark 4:3

> Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seed.

Matthew 13:19

> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and takes away what was planted in his heart.

Spiritual Principle

A hard heart does not let God's Word in.

Key Truth

The problem is never the seed; it is the soil.

VI. ON ROCKY GROUND

Luke 8:6 — No Moisture

“Some fell on rocky ground, and when it sprouted, it withered because it had no moisture.”

“Some fell on rocky ground.”

A thin layer of soil over rock.

“When it sprouted.”

It started well.

“It withered because it had no moisture.”

No depth.

No roots.

Cross References

Matthew 13:5

> Some seed fell on rocky ground where there was little soil. It grew quickly because the soil was shallow.

Mark 4:5

> Other seed fell on rocky ground where there was not much soil.

Matthew 13:20

> The seed on rocky ground is like a person who hears the message and accepts it right away with joy.

Spiritual Principle

A good start is not enough without deep roots.

Key Truth

Shallow faith withers under heat.

VII. AMONG THORNS

Luke 8:7 — Choked

“Some fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.”

“Some fell among thorns.”

The soil was good, but crowded.

“Which grew up with it.”

The thorns grew alongside.

“And choked the plants.”

Competition killed the crop.

Cross References

Matthew 13:7

> Other seed fell among thorny weeds, which grew up and choked the good plants.

Mark 4:7

> Some seed fell among thorns, which grew and choked the plants, so they produced no grain.

Matthew 13:22

> The seed planted among thorns is like a person who hears the message, but the worries of life and the false promises of money crowd it out, so it produces nothing.

Spiritual Principle

Other things can crowd God's Word out of our lives.

Key Truth

A divided heart produces no fruit.

VIII. GOOD SOIL

Luke 8:8 — A Hundred Times

“But some fell on good soil. It grew and produced a crop, a hundred times what was sown.” As He said this, He called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!””

“Some fell on good soil.”

Soft, deep, and clear.

“A hundred times what was sown.”

An amazing harvest.

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Jesus called out loudly.

Listen carefully.

Everyone has ears, but not everyone truly hears.

Cross References

Matthew 13:8

> Other seed fell on good ground and produced a crop, a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was planted.

Mark 4:8

> Some seed fell on good soil. It grew and produced a crop.

Matthew 13:9

> Anyone who has ears should listen.

Spiritual Principle

A receptive heart produces abundant fruit.

Key Truth

God's Word is powerful when it falls on good soil.

IX. WHAT DID IT MEAN?

Luke 8:9 — The Disciples Asked

“The disciples asked what the parable meant.”

The disciples did not understand.

But they asked.

This is a mark of good soil.

Wanting to understand.

Cross References

Matthew 13:10

The followers came and asked Him, “Why do You use stories to speak to the people?”

Mark 4:10

Later, when He was alone, the twelve and the others around Him asked about the stories.

Matthew 13:36

His followers came to Him and said, “Explain to us the story about the weeds in the field.”

Spiritual Principle

Honest questions lead to deeper understanding.

Application

Do you ask God to help you understand His Word?

X. THE SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM

Luke 8:10 — Seeing, They May Not See

“Jesus replied, “The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, ‘seeing, they may not see, and hearing, they may not understand.’”

“The secrets of the kingdom of God have been given to you.”

Truths once hidden, now revealed.

“But to others I speak in parables.”

Parables reveal truth to seeking hearts.

They hide it from hearts that refuse to listen.

“Seeing, they may not see.”

Jesus quoted Isaiah.

Those who harden their hearts against God's truth lose the ability to understand it.

Cross References

Matthew 13:11

> He answered, “You have been given the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but they have not.”

Mark 4:11

> The secret of God's kingdom has been given to you. But to those outside, everything is told in stories.

Isaiah 6:9

> He said, “Go and tell these people: ‘Keep listening, but do not understand. Keep looking, but do not see.’”

Spiritual Principle

God reveals truth to seeking hearts.

Spiritual Warning

A heart that keeps refusing the truth can lose the ability to see it.

XI. THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD

Luke 8:11 — The Meaning

“This is the meaning: The seed is the Word of God.”

Simple and clear.

The seed is God's Word.

The seed is always good.

The sower is faithful.

The difference is in the soil.

The parable is about how we hear.

Cross References

Matthew 13:19

> When someone hears the message about the kingdom,

Mark 4:14

> The farmer plants the word.

1 Peter 1:23

> Your new birth did not come from a seed that rots away. It came from a seed that never dies: God's word, which is alive and lasts forever.

Spiritual Principle

God's Word has life-giving power.

Key Truth

The seed never changes; the soil makes the difference.

XII. THE DEVIL TAKES THE WORD

Luke 8:12 — Along the Path

“The seed along the path represents those who hear, but then the devil takes the word from their hearts so they cannot believe and be saved.”

“Those who hear.”

They hear the words.

“But then the devil takes the word from their hearts.”

Before it can take root.

Distraction.

Doubt.

Hardness.

“So they cannot believe and be saved.”

The devil's goal is to keep people from believing.

Cross References

Matthew 13:19

> The evil one comes and steals what was planted in his heart.

Mark 4:15

> As soon as they hear the word, Satan comes and takes away the word planted in them.

John 8:44

> Your father is the devil, and you belong to him. He has been a killer from the start. He wants nothing to do with truth, because there is no truth in him at all.

Spiritual Principle

The enemy works to steal God's Word from our hearts.

Spiritual Warning

Do not let the Word lie on the surface of a hard heart.

XIII. NO ROOT

Luke 8:13 — In Testing They Fall Away

“The seed on the rock represents those who hear the word and receive it with joy, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in testing they fall away.”

“Receive it with joy.”

An excited, emotional response.

“But they have no root.”

No depth.

“They believe for a while.”

“But in testing they fall away.”

When hardship comes, they quit.

Emotion without roots cannot last.

Cross References

Matthew 13:20

> The seed on rocky ground is the person who hears the word and receives it gladly at once.

Mark 4:16

> Others are like seed planted on rocky ground. They hear the word and accept it with joy.

Matthew 13:21

> But they have no root, so they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly give up.

Spiritual Principle

Lasting faith needs deep roots.

Application

How deep are your roots in God's Word?

XIV. CHOKED BY LIFE

Luke 8:14 — Worries, Riches, and Pleasures

“The seed among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures, and do not mature.”

“As they go on their way.”

Slowly, over time.

“Choked by life's worries.”

Anxiety.

“Riches.”

The pursuit of money.

“And pleasures.”

The comforts of life.

“And do not mature.”

Never bearing ripe fruit.

These things are not always evil in themselves.

But they can crowd out God.

Cross References

Matthew 13:22

> The worries of this life and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it produces nothing.

Mark 4:19

> The worries of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word.

1 Timothy 6:9

> People who are set on getting rich are tempted and trapped. They are caught by many senseless, hurtful desires that drag them down to ruin.

Spiritual Principle

Worries, money, and pleasures can choke spiritual growth.

Spiritual Warning

What thorns are crowding God's Word out of your life?

XV. A NOBLE AND GOOD HEART

Luke 8:15 — By Perseverance

“The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart who hear the word, retain it, and by perseverance produce a crop.””

“A noble and good heart.”

An honest, open heart.

“Who hear the word.”

“Retain it.”

Hold on to it.

“And by perseverance produce a crop.”

Fruit takes time.

Patience.

Endurance.

Good soil hears, holds, and keeps going.

Cross References

Matthew 13:23

> The seed on good soil is the person who hears and understands the word. That person produces a crop.

Mark 4:20

> Others are like seed on good soil. They hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop.

James 1:21

> Throw away every dirty habit and every kind of evil. With a humble heart, welcome the message God planted in you. It has the power to save you.

Spiritual Principle

Fruit comes from hearing, holding on, and persevering.

Key Truth

Good soil is an honest heart that keeps going.

XVI. A LAMP ON A STAND

Luke 8:16 — So Others May See

“No one lights a lamp and hides it under a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand so those who come in may see the light.”

“No one lights a lamp and hides it.”

That would be foolish.

“He puts it on a stand.”

Light is meant to be seen.

“So those who come in may see the light.”

The Word received is meant to shine to others.

Cross References

Matthew 5:15

> Nobody lights a lamp and then covers it with a basket. It goes up on a lampstand, where it shines for the whole household.

Mark 4:21

> Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a bowl or a bed? Don't you put it on a stand?

Luke 11:33

> When people light a lamp, they do not tuck it away or cover it up. They set it up high so everyone coming in can see by its light.

Spiritual Principle

God's light in us is meant to shine for others.

Application

Is your light hidden or shining?

XVII. NOTHING HIDDEN

Luke 8:17 — Brought into the Open

“For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed, and nothing concealed that will not be known and brought into the open.”

Truth cannot stay hidden forever.

God's kingdom will be fully revealed.

And every heart will one day be brought into the light.

Cross References

Matthew 10:26

> Everything that is covered up will be uncovered, and everything secret will be made known.

Mark 4:22

> Whatever is hidden is meant to be revealed.

1 Corinthians 4:5

> The Lord will shine light on everything now hidden in the dark and will make plain what each heart was really after.

Spiritual Principle

Everything will one day be revealed.

Key Truth

Live as one whose heart will be brought into the light.

XVIII. HOW YOU LISTEN

Luke 8:18 — More Will Be Given

“So pay attention to how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away.””

“Pay attention to how you listen.”

Not just what you hear, but how.

“Whoever has will be given more.”

Those who receive and obey the Word grow in understanding.

“Whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away.”

Those who ignore the Word lose even what they thought they knew.

Cross References

Mark 4:25

> Whoever has will be given more. But whoever has nothing, even what they have will be taken from them.

Matthew 25:29

> Everyone who has will be given more, and he will have plenty.

Matthew 13:12

> Whoever has understanding will be given more.

Spiritual Principle

The way we listen determines how we grow.

Key Truth

Careful listening leads to greater understanding.

XIX. HIS MOTHER AND BROTHERS

Luke 8:19 — Outside the Crowd

“Then His mother and brothers came to see Him, but they could not reach Him because of the crowd.”

“His mother and brothers.”

Mary and Jesus' brothers.

Christians understand “brothers” in different ways.

Some believe they were later sons of Mary and Joseph.

Others believe they were Joseph's sons from an earlier marriage, or close relatives.

“They could not reach Him because of the crowd.”

Family stood outside.

Cross References

Matthew 12:46

> While Jesus was talking to the crowd, His mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to Him.

Mark 3:31

> Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call Him.

John 7:5

> Even His own brothers did not believe in Him.

Spiritual Principle

Even those closest to Jesus can struggle to understand Him.

Key Truth

Being near Jesus' family is not the same as being in His family.

XX. STANDING OUTSIDE

Luke 8:20 — Wanting to See You

“Someone told Him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see You.””

Someone brought the message.

The crowd expected Jesus to stop and go to them.

Family came first in that culture.

What would Jesus say?

Cross References

Matthew 12:47

> Someone told Him, “Your mother and brothers are outside, wanting to talk with You.”

Mark 3:32

> A crowd was sitting around Him. They said, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for You.”

Luke 2:48

> His mother said, “Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried looking for You.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' priorities are set by His Father's will.

Key Truth

Jesus was about to redefine family.

XXI. MY MOTHER AND BROTHERS

Luke 8:21 — Hear and Practice

“But He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.””

“My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God.”

Jesus did not reject His family.

He later cared for His mother from the cross.

But He opened His family to everyone.

“And put it into practice.”

The good soil again.

Hearing and doing.

Mary herself was the first example of this.

Cross References

Matthew 12:49

Pointing to His followers, He said, “Here are My mother and My brothers.”

Mark 3:34

He looked at those sitting around Him and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers!”

John 15:14

If you obey My commands, you are My friends.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' true family hears and obeys God's Word.

Key Truth

Anyone can join the family of Jesus through faith and obedience.

XXII. TO THE OTHER SIDE

Luke 8:22 — Let's Cross

“One day Jesus got into a boat with His disciples and said, “Let's cross to the other side of the lake.” So they set out.”

“Let's cross to the other side of the lake.”

Jesus gave the plan.

He said they would reach the other side.

“So they set out.”

They obeyed.

Obedience does not mean there will be no storms.

Cross References

Matthew 8:23

Jesus got into a boat, and His followers went with Him.

Mark 4:35

> That evening, Jesus said to His followers, “Let's go across to the other side of the lake.”

Jonah 1:3

> But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going there.

Spiritual Principle

Storms can come even on the path of obedience.

Key Truth

Jesus' word, “Let's cross,” was a promise.

XXIII. HE FELL ASLEEP

Luke 8:23 — A Storm on the Lake

“As they sailed, He fell asleep. A storm swept down on the lake, the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger.”

“He fell asleep.”

Jesus was truly human and tired.

He also rested in perfect peace.

“A storm swept down on the lake.”

The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by hills.

Sudden violent storms are common.

“The boat was filling with water, and they were in danger.”

Even experienced fishermen were afraid.

Cross References

Matthew 8:24

> Suddenly a terrible storm came up on the lake, so that waves covered the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

Mark 4:37

> A strong wind came up, and the waves began to break over the boat, so that it was nearly full of water.

Psalm 107:25

> He spoke, and a storm came up, which lifted high the waves.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus is at peace in the storm.

Key Truth

Jesus slept because He trusted His Father completely.

XXIV. MASTER, WE'RE GOING TO DROWN!

Luke 8:24 — Rebuking the Wind

“The disciples woke Him, shouting, “Master, Master, we're going to drown!” Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. They stopped, and all was calm.”

“Master, Master, we're going to drown!”

Panic.

“Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves.”

As He rebuked demons and fever.

Creation obeys its Creator.

“They stopped, and all was calm.”

Instantly.

Not a slow fading of the wind.

Complete calm.

Cross References

Matthew 8:26

> He got up and gave a command to the wind and the waves, and it became completely calm.

Mark 4:39

> Jesus woke up, gave orders to the wind, and told the lake, “Hush! Settle down!” The wind died away, and the water became perfectly calm.

Psalm 107:29

> He made the storm quiet, and the waves of the sea were still.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus has authority over nature.

Key Truth

One word from Jesus calms the storm.

XXV. WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?

Luke 8:25 — Who Is This?

““Where is your faith?” He asked. They were afraid and amazed, saying to one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him!””

“Where is your faith?”

They had faith, but they did not use it.

Jesus had said, “Let's cross to the other side.”

“They were afraid and amazed.”

Now they feared Jesus more than the storm.

“Who is this?”

Only God rules the wind and the sea.

Cross References

Matthew 8:27

> The men were stunned. “Who can this be?” they asked. “The wind and the lake do what He tells them!”

Mark 4:41

> They were filled with fear and said to one another, “Who is He, that wind and waves follow His orders?”

Psalm 89:9

> You are Master over the stormy sea. When its waves rise high, You make them lie down.

Spiritual Principle

Faith trusts Jesus' word in the storm.

Application

In your storm, where is your faith?

XXVI. THE REGION OF THE GERASENES

Luke 8:26 — Across from Galilee

“They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee.”

“The region of the Gerasenes.”

The eastern side of the lake.

Different copies and Gospels name the area slightly differently, but they all point to this same eastern shore.

A mostly Gentile area.

Jesus crossed a storm to reach one man.

Cross References

Matthew 8:28

> When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake in the area of the Gadarenes, two men with demons met Him.

Mark 5:1

> They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.

Matthew 4:25

> Large crowds followed Him from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, Judea, and the land across the Jordan.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus goes to great lengths to reach one person.

Key Truth

Jesus crossed a storm for a single man.

XXVII. AMONG THE TOMBS

Luke 8:27 — No Clothes, No House

“When Jesus stepped ashore, a demon-possessed man met Him. For a long time he had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but stayed among the tombs.”

“A demon-possessed man met Him.”

The moment Jesus arrived.

“He had not worn clothes.”

Shame.

“Or lived in a house.”

Cut off from family and community.

“But stayed among the tombs.”

Living among the dead.

A picture of what evil does: it isolates, shames, and destroys.

Cross References

Mark 5:3

> This man lived in the burial caves, and no one could keep him tied up, not even with a chain.

Isaiah 65:4

> They sit among the graves and spend the night in secret places.

Mark 1:23

Just then a man in their synagogue who had an evil spirit cried out.

Spiritual Principle

Evil isolates, shames, and destroys.

Key Truth

No one was too far gone for Jesus.

XXVIII. SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD

Luke 8:28 — Do Not Torment Me

“When he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet and shouted loudly, “What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!””

“He fell at His feet.”

Even demons bow before Jesus.

“Jesus, Son of the Most High God.”

The demons knew exactly who He was.

“I beg You, do not torment me!”

The demons feared Jesus' judgment.

Cross References

Mark 5:6

When he saw Jesus from far away, he ran and fell on his knees before Him.

Mark 5:7

He shouted, “What do You want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name, don't punish me!”

Matthew 8:29

They cried out, “Son of God, why are You bothering us? Did You come to torture us before the right time?”

Spiritual Principle

Every power of darkness must bow to Jesus.

Key Truth

The demons recognized Jesus as the Son of the Most High God.

XXIX. HE WOULD BREAK THE CHAINS

Luke 8:29 — Driven into Solitary Places

“For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out. Often it had seized him, and though he was chained and kept under guard, he would break the chains and be driven into solitary places by the demon.”

“Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out.”

“He was chained and kept under guard.”

People tried to control him.

“He would break the chains.”

No human power could help.

Chains could restrain him, but only Jesus could free him.

The Bible shows that evil spirits are real, though not every illness or mental struggle is caused by a demon.

Cross References

Mark 5:4

> He had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons. No one was strong enough to control him.

Mark 5:8

> For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!”

Mark 1:26

> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a loud scream.

Spiritual Principle

Only Jesus can truly set people free.

Key Truth

Chains could not hold him, but Jesus could free him.

XXX. LEGION

Luke 8:30 — Many Demons

“Jesus asked, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, because many demons had entered him.”

“What is your name?”

Jesus spoke personally.

“Legion.”

A Roman legion had thousands of soldiers.

“Because many demons had entered him.”

He was overwhelmed by evil.

But many demons were no match for one Savior.

Cross References

Mark 5:9

> Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He answered, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us.”

Mark 5:15

> They saw the man who had been possessed by a legion of demons sitting there, dressed and in his right mind.

Revelation 20:3

> The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, closed it, and locked it over him.

Spiritual Principle

No amount of evil is too much for Jesus.

Key Truth

A legion of demons could not stand against Jesus.

XXXI. NOT INTO THE ABYSS

Luke 8:31 — They Begged Him

“They begged Him not to send them into the abyss.”

“They begged Him.”

The demons knew Jesus had authority over them.

“Not to send them into the abyss.”

A place of imprisonment for evil spirits.

They knew their final judgment was coming.

Cross References

Mark 5:10

> He kept begging Jesus not to send them out of the area.

Revelation 9:1

> I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. It was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit.

Revelation 9:2

> When it opened the pit, smoke rose out of it like smoke from a huge furnace.

Spiritual Principle

Evil knows its judgment is certain.

Key Truth

Demons must ask Jesus' permission.

XXXII. A HERD OF PIGS

Luke 8:32 — Permission Given

“A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged to enter the pigs, and Jesus gave them permission.”

“A large herd of pigs.”

Pigs were unclean animals under Jewish law.

This was Gentile territory.

“The demons begged to enter the pigs.”

“And Jesus gave them permission.”

The demons could do nothing without Jesus' permission.

Cross References

Mark 5:11

> A large herd of pigs was feeding on a nearby hill.

Mark 5:13

> Jesus allowed them to do this. The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs.

Leviticus 11:7

> The pig has a split hoof but does not chew the cud, so it is unclean for you.

Spiritual Principle

Evil operates only within the limits Jesus allows.

Key Truth

Even demons need Jesus' permission.

XXXIII. INTO THE LAKE

Luke 8:33 — The Herd Drowned

“The demons left the man and went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.”

“The demons left the man.”

He was free.

“The herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.”

The destructive power of evil was shown plainly.

What the demons did to the pigs, they wanted to do to the man.

It also showed everyone that the demons had truly left him.

Cross References

Mark 5:13

> The herd, about two thousand pigs, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

Matthew 8:32

> The whole herd ran down the steep hill into the lake and died in the water.

Deuteronomy 14:8

> The pig is unclean for you. Do not eat their meat or touch their dead bodies.

Spiritual Principle

Evil always seeks to destroy.

Key Truth

One man's freedom was worth more than a herd of pigs.

XXXIV. THE HERDSMEN RAN

Luke 8:34 — Reporting in Town

“When the herdsmen saw this, they ran off and reported it in the town and countryside.”

The herdsmen were terrified.

They had lost their herd.

They ran to tell everyone.

News spread fast.

Cross References

Mark 5:14

Those tending the pigs ran off and told this in the town and the countryside.

Matthew 8:33

The men caring for the pigs ran into town and told everything.

Mark 5:16

Those who had seen it told people what had happened.

Spiritual Principle

God's works cannot be kept quiet.

Key Truth

The whole region heard what Jesus had done.

XXXV. IN HIS RIGHT MIND

Luke 8:35 — Sitting at Jesus' Feet

“People came to see, and they found the man who had been demon-possessed sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind. They were afraid.”

“Sitting at Jesus' feet.”

Once running wild among tombs.

Now sitting like a disciple.

“Dressed.”

Once naked and ashamed.

“And in his right mind.”

Once tormented.

Now at peace.

“They were afraid.”

They feared the power that had changed him.

Cross References

Mark 5:15

> They found the man sitting there, dressed and thinking clearly, and they were afraid.

2 Corinthians 5:17

> Anyone joined to Christ is made new. The old life is over; a new life has begun.

Acts 4:13

> They saw how bold Peter and John were and realized they had been with Jesus.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus completely transforms lives.

Key Truth

The wild man became a peaceful disciple.

XXXVI. HOW HE HAD BEEN HEALED

Luke 8:36 — The Witnesses Told

“Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been healed.”

Eyewitnesses explained what happened.

The word Luke uses for “healed” can also mean “saved.”

The man was not only healed.

He was saved.

Cross References

Mark 5:16

Those who saw it told the others what had happened to the man and the pigs.

Acts 4:20

We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Psalm 66:16

All of you who worship God, come near and hear my story of what He did for me.

Spiritual Principle

Those who see God's work should tell it.

Key Truth

Jesus' healing is salvation of the whole person.

XXXVII. ASKED JESUS TO LEAVE

Luke 8:37 — Overcome with Fear

“Then all the people of the region asked Jesus to leave them, for they were overcome with fear. So He got into the boat and left.”

“Asked Jesus to leave them.”

Tragic.

They saw a man transformed.

They feared Jesus' power and their own losses.

They wanted Him gone.

“So He got into the boat and left.”

Jesus does not force Himself on anyone.

Cross References

Mark 5:17

The people began to beg Jesus to leave their area.

Matthew 8:34

> The whole town came out to meet Jesus. When they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their region.

Acts 16:39

> The officials came and apologized to them, then led them out and asked them to leave the city.

Spiritual Principle

Some people prefer comfort to Christ.

Spiritual Warning

It is possible to see Jesus' power and still send Him away.

XXXVIII. HE BEGGED TO GO WITH HIM

Luke 8:38 — But Jesus Said

“The man begged to go with Him, but Jesus said,”

“The man begged to go with Him.”

The town begged Jesus to leave.

The man begged to stay with Jesus.

He loved his Deliverer.

“But Jesus said.”

Jesus had another plan for him.

Cross References

Mark 5:18

> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed begged to go with Him.

Mark 5:19

> Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you.”

Philippians 1:23

> I long to leave and be with Christ, which is far better.

Spiritual Principle

Those set free long to be near Jesus.

Key Truth

Jesus sometimes calls us to serve Him where we are.

XXXIX. RETURN HOME AND TELL

Luke 8:39 — How Much God Has Done

““Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went throughout the town, proclaiming how much Jesus had done for him.”

“Return home.”

Go back to the people who knew you before.

“And tell how much God has done for you.”

A simple message: your own story.

“Proclaiming how much Jesus had done for him.”

Jesus said, “God.”

The man said, “Jesus.”

He understood who Jesus was.

The first missionary to this Gentile region.

Cross References

Mark 5:19

> Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how He has had mercy on you.

Mark 5:20

> So the man left and began to tell in the Ten Towns how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

Psalm 71:17

> Since I was young, God, You have taught me, and to this day I tell about Your wonderful works.

Spiritual Principle

Our story of what Jesus has done is a powerful witness.

Application

Who in your home or town needs to hear what Jesus has done for you?

XL. A CROWD WELCOMED HIM

Luke 8:40 — They Were Expecting Him

“When Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed Him, for they were expecting Him.”

One region sent Him away.

Another welcomed Him.

They were waiting for Him.

Two needy people were among them.

Cross References

Matthew 9:1

> Jesus got into a boat, crossed back over, and came to His own town.

Mark 5:21

> When Jesus went back across the lake in the boat, a large crowd gathered around Him on the shore.

Mark 6:53

> When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and tied up the boat.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus comes to those who are waiting for Him.

Key Truth

Some send Jesus away; others welcome Him.

XLI. JAIRUS

Luke 8:41 — A Synagogue Leader

“A man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with Him to come to his house,”

“A man named Jairus, a synagogue leader.”

An important, respected man.

“Came and fell at Jesus' feet.”

He put aside his position.

Desperation made him humble.

“Pleading with Him to come to his house.”

Cross References

Matthew 9:18

> A leader of the synagogue came and knelt before Him.

Mark 5:22

> One of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came there. When he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet.

Mark 5:23

> He begged Jesus, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put Your hands on her so she will be healed and live.”

Spiritual Principle

Desperate need humbles even the respected.

Key Truth

Jairus laid aside his status at Jesus' feet.

XLII. HIS ONLY DAUGHTER

Luke 8:42 — About Twelve Years Old

“because his only daughter, about twelve years old, was dying. As Jesus went, the crowds almost crushed Him.”

“His only daughter.”

Luke notes another “only” child, like the widow's only son.

“About twelve years old.”

Just becoming a young woman.

“Was dying.”

Every minute mattered.

“The crowds almost crushed Him.”

The crowd slowed Jesus down.

Cross References

Matthew 9:18

> My daughter is dying. But come and put Your hand on her, and she will live.

Mark 5:23

> My little daughter is near death.

Mark 5:24

> Jesus went with him, and a large crowd followed, pressing all around Him.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus responds to a parent's desperate love.

Key Truth

Jesus went with Jairus.

XLIII. TWELVE YEARS OF SUFFERING

Luke 8:43 — Spent All She Had

“A woman who had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding, and had spent all she had on doctors without being healed,”

“Suffered for twelve years.”

As long as Jairus' daughter had been alive.

“With constant bleeding.”

Under the law, this made her ceremonially unclean.

She would have been isolated and ashamed.

“Had spent all she had on doctors without being healed.”

Luke the doctor tells this honestly.

Medicine in that day had reached its limits for her.

This is not a reason to avoid doctors, but a reminder that Jesus can do what no one else can.

Cross References

Matthew 9:20

> Then a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus.

Mark 5:25

> A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years.

Leviticus 15:25

> If a woman has bleeding for many days at a time other than her monthly period, she will be unclean as long as it lasts.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus can help when every other hope has failed.

Key Truth

Twelve years of suffering were about to end.

XLIV. SHE TOUCHED HIS CLOAK

Luke 8:44 — Immediately Healed

“came up behind Him and touched the edge of His cloak. Immediately her bleeding stopped.”

“Came up behind Him.”

Quietly, hoping not to be noticed.

“Touched the edge of His cloak.”

Probably the tassel Jewish men wore on their garments.

“Immediately her bleeding stopped.”

Twelve years of suffering ended in a moment.

Cross References

Matthew 9:20

> She came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of His coat.

Mark 5:27

> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His clothes.

Mark 5:29

> At once her bleeding stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her suffering.

Spiritual Principle

Even weak, hidden faith reaches Jesus.

Key Truth

One touch of faith accomplished what twelve years could not.

XLV. WHO TOUCHED ME?

Luke 8:45 — Everyone Denied It

““Who touched Me?” Jesus asked. When everyone denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround You and press against You.””

“Who touched Me?”

Jesus knew.

He wanted her to come forward.

“When everyone denied it.”

“Master, the crowds surround You.”

Peter thought the question made no sense.

Many touched Jesus.

Only one touched Him in faith.

Cross References

Mark 5:30

> Jesus turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched My clothes?”

Mark 5:31

> His followers said, “You see the people crowding against You, and You ask, ‘Who touched Me?’”

Matthew 9:21

> She said to herself, “If I can just touch His clothes, I will be healed.”

Spiritual Principle

Many crowd around Jesus; few reach Him in faith.

Key Truth

There is a difference between bumping into Jesus and reaching out to Him.

XLVI. POWER HAS GONE OUT

Luke 8:46 — Someone Touched Me

“But Jesus said, “Someone touched Me; I know that power has gone out from Me.””

“Someone touched Me.”

Jesus would not let her slip away.

“I know that power has gone out from Me.”

Healing was not magic.

It was Jesus' own power, given to her.

Cross References

Mark 5:30

Jesus knew at once that power had gone out from Him.

Luke 6:19

Everyone tried to touch Him, because power came from Him and healed them all.

2 Kings 13:21

When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came back to life and stood up.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus knows each person who reaches out in faith.

Key Truth

Jesus felt her faith in the middle of a crowd.

XLVII. SHE CAME TREMBLING

Luke 8:47 — In the Presence of Everyone

“The woman, realizing she could not remain hidden, came trembling and fell at His feet. In the presence of everyone, she explained why she had touched Him and how she had been healed instantly.”

“She could not remain hidden.”

“Came trembling and fell at His feet.”

Afraid of what He might say.

“In the presence of everyone.”

For twelve years she had been hidden and unclean.

Now everyone heard her story.

Her public testimony became her public restoration.

Cross References

Mark 5:33

> The woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at His feet trembling with fear and told Him the whole truth.

Matthew 9:22

> Jesus turned and saw her.

1 John 1:9

> When we admit our sins to God, we can count on Him to do what is right. He will forgive us and wash away everything we have done wrong.

Spiritual Principle

Coming openly to Jesus brings full restoration.

Key Truth

Jesus called her out of hiding to give her more than healing.

XLVIII. DAUGHTER

Luke 8:48 — Go in Peace

“Then He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.””

“Daughter.”

The only time Jesus calls someone “daughter” in the Gospels.

A word of belonging.

She had been an outcast for twelve years.

Now she was family.

“Your faith has healed you.”

“Go in peace.”

Healed in body.

Restored in heart.

Cross References

Matthew 9:22

> Jesus told her, “Be encouraged, daughter. Your trust in Me has made you well.” She was well from that moment on.

Mark 5:34

> My daughter, because you trusted, you are healed. Go home in peace, and your sickness is over.

Luke 7:50

> Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

Spiritual Principle

Jesus gives belonging to the outcast.

Key Truth

She came for healing and received a family.

XLIX. YOUR DAUGHTER IS DEAD

Luke 8:49 — Don't Bother the Teacher

“While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus and said, “Your daughter is dead. Don't bother the Teacher anymore.””

“While Jesus was still speaking.”

The delay seemed costly.

“Your daughter is dead.”

The worst news a father can hear.

“Don't bother the Teacher anymore.”

They thought death was the end.

They thought it was too late for Jesus.

Cross References

Mark 5:35

> Some people came from the house of the synagogue leader and said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher anymore?”

John 11:21

> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

John 11:32

> When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Spiritual Principle

It is never too late for Jesus.

Key Truth

What people call the end, Jesus calls an opportunity.

L. JUST BELIEVE

Luke 8:50 — Do Not Be Afraid

“Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Do not be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.””

“Hearing this.”

Jesus heard the message before Jairus could respond.

“Do not be afraid.”

Fear and faith were fighting in Jairus' heart.

“Just believe.”

Keep trusting.

Do not give up now.

“And she will be healed.”

A promise.

Cross References

Mark 5:36

> Jesus ignored what they said and told the synagogue leader, “Don't be afraid; just believe.”

John 11:25

> Jesus told her, “I Myself am the One who raises the dead and gives life. Whoever trusts in Me will live again, even though he dies.”

Hebrews 11:1

> Faith is confidence that what we hope for will come, and certainty about things we cannot yet see.

Spiritual Principle

Faith keeps trusting when the news is worst.

Key Truth

“Just believe” is Jesus' answer to fear.

LI. ONLY PETER, JOHN, AND JAMES

Luke 8:51 — With the Parents

“When He arrived at the house, He allowed only Peter, John, James, and the girl's parents to go in with Him.”

“Only Peter, John, James.”

His inner circle.

They would also see His glory on the mountain.

“And the girl's parents.”

Jesus included the grieving parents.

This was a private, tender moment.

Cross References

Mark 5:37

> He allowed no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Mark 9:2

> Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a high mountain where they were alone.

Matthew 17:1

> Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain by themselves.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus treats grief with tenderness and privacy.

Key Truth

Jesus brought only faith into the room, not the crowd's doubt.

LII. NOT DEAD BUT ASLEEP

Luke 8:52 — Stop Weeping

“All the people were weeping and mourning for her. But He said, “Stop weeping; she is not dead but asleep.””

“All the people were weeping and mourning.”

Funerals in that day included loud mourning.

“Stop weeping.”

“She is not dead but asleep.”

She was truly dead.

But for Jesus, death is like sleep.

Someone who sleeps will wake up.

For believers, death is not the end.

Cross References

Mark 5:38

> When they came to the house, Jesus saw many people crying loudly and wailing.

Mark 5:39

> He went in and said, “Why are you making so much noise and crying? The child is not dead. She is only asleep.”

John 11:11

> Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up.

Spiritual Principle

For Jesus, death is like sleep.

Key Truth

Those who sleep in Jesus will wake.

LIII. THEY LAUGHED AT HIM

Luke 8:53 — Knowing She Was Dead

“They laughed at Him, knowing she was dead.”

“They laughed at Him.”

Mocking laughter.

“Knowing she was dead.”

They were sure.

Their laughter proves she was truly dead.

It also shows unbelief.

Cross References

Mark 5:40

> But they laughed at Him.

John 11:37

> Some of them said, “He opened the eyes of the blind man. Couldn't He have kept this man from dying?”

2 Kings 4:31

> Gehazi went ahead and laid the staff on the boy's face, but there was no sound or response.

Spiritual Principle

Unbelief mocks what it cannot understand.

Key Truth

The crowd laughed, but Jesus was about to have the last word.

LIV. CHILD, GET UP!

Luke 8:54 — He Took Her by the Hand

“But He took her by the hand and said, “Child, get up!””

“He took her by the hand.”

Touching a dead body made a person unclean.

But Jesus' touch brought life.

“Child, get up!”

Gentle words.

Like a parent waking a child in the morning.

Cross References

Mark 5:41

> He took her hand and said, “Talitha koum!” which means, “Little girl, get up!”

John 11:43

> Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

Acts 9:40

> Peter turned toward the body and said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' word has power over death.

Key Truth

Jesus woke her from death as gently as from sleep.

LV. HER SPIRIT RETURNED

Luke 8:55 — Give Her Something to Eat

“Her spirit returned, and she stood up at once. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat.”

“Her spirit returned.”

She was truly dead, and truly brought back.

“She stood up at once.”

Fully restored.

“Give her something to eat.”

A tender, practical detail.

Jesus cared about her ordinary needs.

It also showed she was really alive.

Cross References

Mark 5:42

> At once the girl stood up and began to walk. She was twelve years old. Everyone was completely amazed.

1 Kings 17:22

> The Lord answered Elijah's prayer. The boy's life came back to him, and he lived.

Acts 9:41

> He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called the believers and widows and presented her to them alive.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus cares about both great miracles and small needs.

Key Truth

The Lord of life remembered she was hungry.

LVI. DO NOT TELL ANYONE

Luke 8:56 — Her Parents Were Astonished

“Her parents were astonished, but He ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.”

“Her parents were astonished.”

Overwhelmed with joy.

“He ordered them not to tell anyone.”

Jesus did not want to be known only as a miracle worker.

His mission was the cross, and His time had not yet come.

The crowds could have pushed Him to be the wrong kind of king.

Cross References

Mark 5:43

> He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this and told them to give her something to eat.

Matthew 9:26

> The news about this spread all through that area.

Mark 7:36

> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more He commanded them, the more they told.

Spiritual Principle

Jesus' mission was greater than miracles.

Key Truth

Jesus came not only to raise the dead, but to die and rise again.

LVII. FIVE GREAT LESSONS FROM LUKE 8

1. The Word Bears Fruit in Receptive Hearts

“The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart.”

Principle:

God's Word bears fruit only in hearts that are open and steadfast.

2. Do Not Let Faith Be Choked

“Choked by life's worries, riches, and pleasures.”

Principle:

Faith must not be crowded out by worldly cares, but nourished with patience.

3. Jesus Has Power over Everything

“He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him!”

Principle:

Jesus has power over nature, demons, disease, and even death.

4. True Family Is Defined by Obedience

“My mother and brothers are those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”

Principle:

True family is defined by obedience to God's Word, not only by bloodlines.

5. Great Faith Comes from Humble Hearts

“She… came trembling and fell at His feet.”

Principle:

Great faith often comes from those who know their own need, like the centurion in Chapter 7, the suffering woman, and Jairus.

LVIII. FOUR KINDS OF HEARTS

The Parable of the Sower describes four hearts.

The Hard Heart

The Word never gets in.

The devil takes it away.

The Shallow Heart

The Word is received with joy but has no root.

Testing makes it fall away.

The Crowded Heart

The Word grows, but worries, riches, and pleasures choke it.

It never matures.

The Good Heart

The Word is heard, held on to, and obeyed with perseverance.

It produces a great harvest.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The question is not whether the seed is good, but whether the soil is ready.

LIX. FOUR MIGHTY WORKS

Luke 8 shows Jesus' power over four great enemies.

Over Nature

“They stopped, and all was calm.”

Over Demons

“Sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind.”

Over Disease

“Immediately her bleeding stopped.”

Over Death

“Her spirit returned, and she stood up at once.”

Key Truth

There is no enemy too great for Jesus.

LX. FAITH OR FEAR?

Luke 8 repeatedly sets faith against fear.

In the Storm

“Where is your faith?”

Among the Gerasenes

“They were overcome with fear.”

With the Woman

“She… came trembling.” Then: **“Your faith has healed you.”**

With Jairus

“Do not be afraid; just believe.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Fear focuses on the problem; faith focuses on Jesus.

LXI. WHAT LUKE 8 TEACHES ABOUT JESUS

He Proclaims the Kingdom

“Proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.”

He Sows the Word

“The seed is the Word of God.”

He Welcomes a New Family

“Those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.”

He Is Lord of Creation

“He commands even the winds and the water.”

He Is the Son of the Most High God

“Jesus, Son of the Most High God.”

He Restores Outcasts

“Daughter, your faith has healed you.”

He Conquers Death

“Child, get up!”

He Cares for Small Needs

“Give her something to eat.”

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Jesus is the Son of the Most High God, with power over every enemy and tender care for every person.

LXII. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

Who were the women who traveled with Jesus?

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others who had been healed and who supported Him from their own resources.

Question 2

Does the Bible say Mary Magdalene was a prostitute?

No. It says seven demons had gone out of her. The prostitute idea came much later.

Question 3

What does the seed represent in the Parable of the Sower?

The Word of God.

Question 4

What are the four kinds of soil?

The path, the rocky ground, the thorns, and the good soil.

Question 5

What chokes the Word in the thorny soil?

Life's worries, riches, and pleasures.

Question 6

What marks the good soil?

A noble and good heart that hears the Word, holds on to it, and perseveres.

Question 7

Who did Jesus say His true family is?

Those who hear the word of God and put it into practice.

Question 8

What did Jesus ask His disciples after calming the storm?

“Where is your faith?”

Question 9

How did the demon-possessed man change after meeting Jesus?

He was sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind.

Question 10

What did Jesus tell the healed man to do?

Return home and tell how much God had done for him.

Question 11

What did Jesus say to Jairus when news came that his daughter had died?

“Do not be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”

Question 12

What should Luke 8 change about the way Christians live today?

Luke 8 should cause believers to live:

- Hearing God's Word with open hearts.
- Putting down deep roots.
- Clearing away the thorns of worry, riches, and pleasures.
- Persevering until fruit comes.
- Letting their light shine.

- Trusting Jesus in the storms of life.
- Telling others what Jesus has done for them.
- Choosing faith over fear.

LXIII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Luke 8 asks several important questions.

What Kind of Soil Is My Heart?

Hard, shallow, crowded, or good?

What Thorns Are in My Life?

What worries, riches, or pleasures are choking God's Word?

Is My Light Shining?

Or is it hidden?

Am I in Jesus' True Family?

Do I hear and obey God's Word?

Where Is My Faith in the Storm?

Do I trust Jesus when life feels out of control?

Have I Sent Jesus Away?

Because I feared what following Him might cost?

Am I Telling My Story?

Do I tell others how much God has done for me?

Will I Just Believe?

Even when the news is the worst?

LXIV. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“Just Believe”

Jairus had come to Jesus with hope.

His daughter was dying.

Jesus was on the way.

Then came the delay.

Then came the message:

“Your daughter is dead. Don't bother the Teacher anymore.”

Every reason for hope was gone.

But Jesus turned to him and said:

“Do not be afraid; just believe.”

Not “understand.”

Not “figure it out.”

Just believe.

And Jesus took the girl by the hand and raised her from the dead.

This creates a powerful principle.

When the news is worst, Jesus' word is still true.

When it seems too late, it is not too late for Him.

Principle:

When fear says it is over, Jesus says, “Just believe.”

LXV. FINAL APPLICATION

Luke Chapter 8 shows the power of God's Word and the power of Jesus.

Women who were healed support His ministry.

He teaches about four kinds of soil.

He calls His followers to let their light shine.

He welcomes all who hear and obey into His family.

He calms a storm with a word.

He frees a man from a legion of demons.

He heals a woman who touched His cloak.

And He raises a little girl from the dead.

Luke 8 therefore reminds us:

Never let your heart grow hard to God's Word.

Never let worries and riches choke your faith.

Never hide your light.

Never let fear have the last word.

Never think it is too late for Jesus.

The church does not need people who only crowd around Jesus.

It needs:

People with good and noble hearts.

People who hear the Word and obey it.

People who trust Jesus in the storm.

And people who go home and tell how much God has done for them.

The same Jesus still calls:

Tell people that God's Word brings life.

Tell people that Jesus calms storms.

Tell people that Jesus sets captives free.

Tell people that Jesus has power over death.

And as you live:

Hear the Word.

Hold it fast.

Trust in the storm.

Just believe.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the faithful women who supported Jesus.

Thank You for Your Word, the seed that brings life.

Thank You that Jesus welcomes all who hear and obey into His family.

Thank You that He calms the storms.

Thank You that He sets captives free.

Thank You that He heals those who reach out in faith.

Thank You that He has power over death itself.

Forgive us when our hearts have been hard, shallow, or crowded.

Forgive us when worries and riches have choked Your Word.

Forgive us when we have hidden our light.

Forgive us when fear has been louder than faith.

Make our hearts good soil.

Give us deep roots and perseverance.

Help us trust Jesus in every storm.

Give us courage to tell what You have done for us.

And when the news is hardest, help us just believe.

"Do not be afraid; just believe."

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verse

"The seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart who hear the word, retain it, and by perseverance produce a crop." — Luke 8:15

Central Truth

God's Word bears fruit in hearts that hear, hold on, and obey, and Jesus has power over nature, demons, disease, and death, calling for faith instead of fear.

Luke 8 in One Sentence

Supported by faithful women, Jesus teaches that God's Word bears fruit only in good hearts and that His true family hears and obeys, then shows His power by calming a storm, freeing a man from a legion of demons, healing a woman who touched His cloak, and raising Jairus' daughter from the dead.