



Previously in Luke

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- Toward the beginning of his public life, Christ was rejected in the synagogue at Nazareth.
- Still, his ministry of healing, preaching and teaching continued to grow.
- Last week, we saw Jesus raise the dead son of a widow in Nain – right in the midst of the funeral!
- This week, among other things, we will see him raise the daughter of a synagogue official named Jairus.

# Luke 8 Introduction

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- **Luke 8** gives us examples of both the teaching and miracles of Jesus.
- We start with the teaching, but this will be followed by several amazing examples of his power.
- Christ will encourage us to share the word with hope and to trust him when things begin to look hopeless.

# Luke 8    Key Verses

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- Luke 8:51-55 (ESV)

<sup>51</sup> And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. <sup>52</sup> And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." <sup>53</sup> And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." <sup>55</sup> And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.

# Luke 8 Outline

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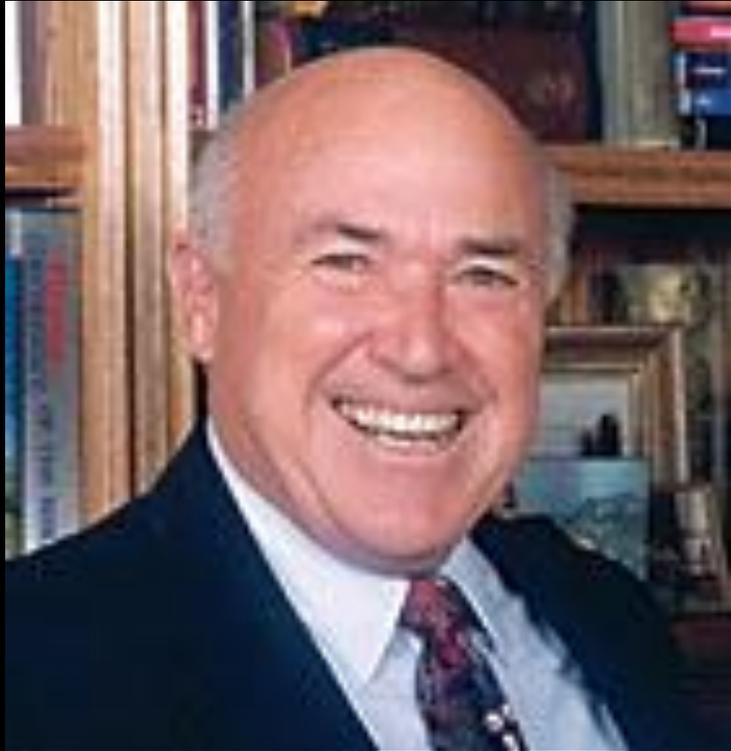
1. Parables    8:1-21
2. Miracles    8:22-56

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

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- 8:1-3 Sometimes at present, Jesus, the Bible or the Christian faith are pictured as being anti-women.
- In Christ's time, women willingly followed Jesus, serving and giving to the ministry.
- Offhand, I cannot think of one woman in the **four Gospels** or **Acts** opposing Jesus or the apostles – **it's always men**.

# 1. Parables 8:1-21



Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa

*Where else but at the foot of Jesus could you find a gathering that included former demon-possessed women and some upper-class socialites? Jesus so often brings together opposites ... people who would normally be suspicious of one another ... This is what Jesus does. He brings different people together, as a testimony that He has broken down the walls that separate us. <sup>1</sup>*

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

- 8:2 Most of what we know of **Mary Magdalene** is here.
- Her name indicates she was from **Magdala**, a town on the shore of Sea of Galilee.
- She was delivered from the torment of seven demons.
- She also shows up later in the resurrection narratives.
- Stories that she was either a prostitute or the wife of Jesus were probably made up to fill in the sizeable gaps.

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

- The **Parable of the Sower** reminds us that responses to the Gospel vary from person to person.
- The seed and the sower remain the same.
- This parable tells us that there are more ways for ministry to go wrong than to go right.

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

*Remember this: If the devil can't hinder you with difficulties, he'll choke you with distractions. Regardless of the impediment, your growth will stall, and your life will be void of righteous fruit. <sup>2</sup>*

– Tony Evans, Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship; Dallas, Texas



# 1. Parables 8:1-21

## A Living Example of This Parable:

- My friend Kurt Kula labored in Poland for many years with hardly any positive results.
- Then he moved to Cambodia where, by comparison, his ministry has been flourishing ever since.
- He didn't change, the Bible didn't change, but the "soil" did.

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

- The **Parable of the Lamp** teaches us that our faith is not a private matter.
- In the Sermon on the Mount (**Matthew 5:14-16**) Jesus said,  
<sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

- **8:18** This verse seems to point back again to the **Parable of the Sower**.
- The big difference is in the hearing, which sort of depends on each of us.
- If we are receptive to the gospel message, and stay receptive to God's word, then he keeps giving us more and more.

# 1. Parables 8:1-21

- 8:19-21 This little incident reminds us of how things have changed under the new covenant.
- Physical relationship to Israel was previously thought to result in closeness to the God of Israel.
- Now it is more clearly a relationship based on faith – which really, it always was anyway.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

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- 8:22-25 The first miracle shows us Jesus calming a storm.
- Several of the disciples were fishermen, so this storm must really have been a bad one for them to be so afraid.
- Jesus mildly rebukes them, showing them, and us, that even in the worst of circumstances, trust is the correct response.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:26-39 I do not really know what it was like for Mary Magdalene before she was delivered from seven demons.
- Still, I suspect that her condition was not as bad as this.
- Just FYI, a Roman legion consisted of about 6000 men.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:27 The man was naked and living among the tombs.
- Mark 5:5 adds the following details.

Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

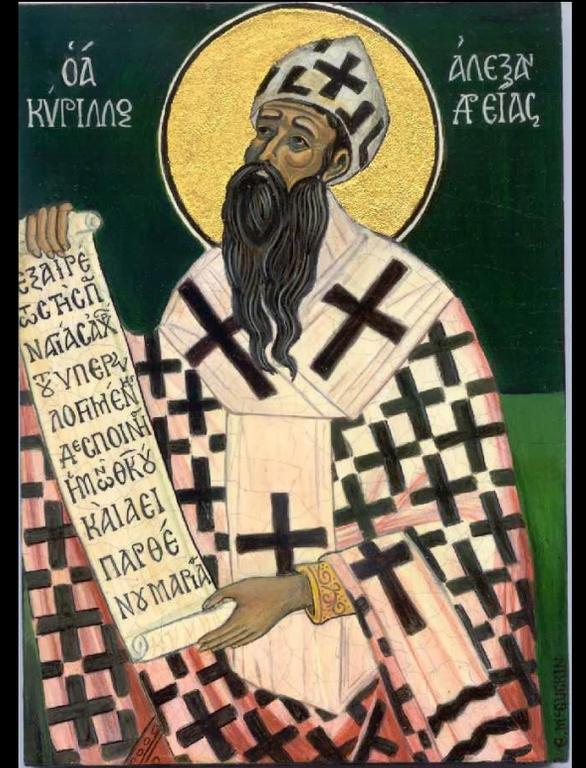
- He must have been a pathetic sight and familiar to everyone in the area where he lived.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- The demons clearly know Jesus and are afraid of him.
- The man is grateful beyond belief that Jesus has helped him.
- The saddest response is from the people of the surrounding area, who obviously value pigs more than this man.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

*Wicked demons are cruel, mischievous, hurtful and treacherous to those who are in their power. The fact clearly proves this, because they hurried the swine over a precipice and drowned them in the waters. Christ granted their request that we might learn from what happened that their disposition is ruthless, bestial, incapable of being softened, and solely intent on doing evil to those whom they can get into their power.* <sup>3</sup>



Cyril of Alexandria  
(376 – 444)

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:38-39 Jesus does not allow the man to come with him, but instead, he sends the man away with a new ministry.
- See 8:39, where Jesus says,  
“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:40 Now when Jesus returned Most likely this means that Jesus is now back in Capernaum.
- Last week we met the Roman centurion who built the synagogue in Capernaum.
- Now we meet Jairus, who is a ruler in that same synagogue.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:41-42 falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house
- For the Gentile centurion, his humility was expressed by asking Jesus not to violate custom by entering his house.
- For the Jewish leader of the synagogue, this public display of humility before Jesus reveals his attitude more clearly.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:43-48 As in **Mark**, we get this story as a sort of sandwich.
- Jesus will first give aid to the woman, who is probably too embarrassed to make her request to Jesus publicly.
- Yet Jesus wants everyone to know that she is now healed.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:49 “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.”
- 8:50 But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.”
- Jairus really has nothing to lose at this point.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:52 “Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.”
- Jesus and the early Christians often refer to death this way, as in **John 11:11-15** (ESV)

“Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.” <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.” <sup>13</sup> Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- Our word **cemetery** comes from a root meaning “sleeping place” and has Christian origins.
- According to the **Online Etymology Dictionary**,  
*Late Latin coemeterium, from Greek koimeterion "sleeping place, dormitory," from koiman "to put to sleep," ...*  
*Early Christian writers were the first to use it for "burial ground,"*
- See <https://www.etymonline.com/word/cemetery>

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- 8:49-56 The mourners were probably professionals, which is why their attitude changes so quickly – wailing to laughter.
- In this way, Jesus cleverly gets them to admit the miracle.
- By laughing at Jesus, they make it clear that they knew the girl was dead.
- Now it would be hard to say that Jesus simply revived her, when they knew she was dead before Jesus ever arrived.

## 2. Miracles 8:22-56

- Throughout this chapter, Jesus is the focus.
- That ought to go without saying, but let's make sure we keep it that way in the church.
- He is the one who solves all the problems.
- He is the one that we trust, even when things are horrible.
- We come along for the ride to have a part in serving him.

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3. In the **miracle stories**, the main thing people, including the disciples, are called to do is **trust Jesus**.

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3. In the **miracle stories**, the main thing people, including the disciples, are called to do is **trust Jesus**.
4. This is true regardless of whether the problem is a storm, physical illness, demonic oppression or even death.

# Luke 8    A Prayer

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- Our Father in heaven,
- In sending your Son, you gave us a person who we can watch, listen to, learn from and follow.
- Help us to be receptive to all that Christ wants to teach us. In other words, give us “ears to hear.”
- Help us to trust that you have everything under control, even when some of the circumstances in our lives seem out of control from our perspective.

# Luke 8    A Prayer

- We know that Jesus has all power over raging storms, physical illness, armies of demons and even death.
- Let us always be ready to seek Christ's help and to follow him all the days of our lives. This is obviously what you, as our Father, want for us.
- In Christ,
- Amen.

## Luke 8    References

1. Chuck Smith, *The Word for Today Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2005, 1331.
2. Evans, Tony. *The Tony Evans Bible Commentary*. B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
3. Arthur A. Just Jr., *Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003, 140.