

Questions, Quotes and Notes

February 12, 2023

Luke 8:22-39: The Sovereign Lord

Pre-Sermon:

1. Read Luke 8:25. What is surprising about the question Jesus asks? Why do you think he can ask this question of the disciples?

Mid-Sermon:

I want to encourage you to confidently do what Jesus says by looking at who Jesus is. Specifically, we are going to see that He is the Sovereign Lord over the natural world and over the supernatural world.

1. What question does Jesus ask the disciples after the storm that we rarely ask ourselves when we are afraid and hesitant about obeying Jesus?
2. How can Jesus ask this question?
3. Is Jesus condemning all natural fear?
4. What is Jesus trying to do by confronting the disciples with their lack of faith? What does this moment have to do with what is going to come later for them?
5. How do these two scenes (22-25 and 26-39) picture what life was going to be like for the disciples in the near future?
6. What is really the question behind the disciples fear?
7. What two reasons did we see in these two stories that we should not be afraid?
8. What does the sea often symbolize in the Old Testament and how does knowing that help us see something beautiful about Jesus in this story?
9. What did Jesus take his disciples across the sea to do?
10. What stands out to you about Jesus' interaction with the demon possessed man?
11. How did the people in that region respond? Why did they respond that way? And how is that a warning to us?

Cross References and Quotes:

1. Mark 4:35-41; Matthew 8:23-27
2. "Fear of our circumstances seems reasonable when you are looking at the waves. But fear of those same circumstances does not seem reasonable when you are looking at Jesus."
3. Job 38:4-7
4. 1 John 5:19

Sermon Review Questions:

1. Why does Jesus ask the disciples about their faith after they were scared in the storm?
2. What did you learn about Jesus today? Was there anything you had any questions about?
3. How can knowing this about Jesus give you courage when you are scared?

An old Welsh preacher named Christmas Evans imagined what it would be like when the demoniac Jesus heals in the passage we are looking at this Sunday returned home.

"I see him going through the city, crying— 'Oh, yes! Oh, yes! Oh, yes! Please do take notice of me. I am the man who was a terror to the people of this place—that wild man, who would wear no clothes, and that no man could bind. Here am I now, in my right mind—Jesus Christ, the Friend of sinners, had compassion on me. He remembered me when I was in my low estate, when there was no eye to pity, and no hand to save. He cast out the devils and redeemed my soul from destruction!"

"Most wonderful must have been the surprise of the people to hear such proclamation. The ladies running to the windows, the men running out to meet him and to converse with him, that they might be positive that there was no imposition, and found it to be a fact that could not be contradicted. 'Oh, the wonder of all wonders! Never was there such a thing,' must, I think, have been the general conversation.

"And while they were talking, and everybody having something to say, homeward goes the man. As soon as he comes in sight of the house, I imagine I see one of the children running in, and crying, 'Oh, mother! Father is coming—he will kill us all!' 'Children, come all into the house,' says the mother. 'Let us fasten the door. I think there is no sorrow like my sorrow!' says the brokenhearted woman. 'Are all the windows fastened, children?' 'Yes, mother.' 'Mary, my dear, come from the window; don't be standing there.' 'Why, mother, I can hardly believe it is father! That man is well dressed!' 'Oh, yes, my dear children, it is your own father, I knew him by his walk the moment I saw him.' Another child looks out and, says, 'Why, mother, I never saw father coming home as he comes to-day. He walks on the footpath, and turns round the corner of the fence. He used to come towards the house as straight as a line, over fences, ditches, and hedges; and I've never seen him walk as slowly as he does now.'

"In a few minutes, however, he arrives at the door of the house, to the great terror of all his huddled family. He gently tries the door, and finds no admittance. He pauses a moment, steps towards the window, and says in a low, firm, and melodious voice, ' My dear wife, if you will let me in, there is no danger, I will not hurt you. I bring you glad tidings of great joy.' The door is reluctantly opened, his wife stuck between fear and joy. Having deliberately seated himself, he says, 'I am come to show you what great things God has done for me. He loved me with an everlasting love. He redeemed me from the curse of the law and the threatenings of vindictive justice. He saved me from the power and dominion of sin. He cast the devils out of my heart, and made that heart, which was a den of thieves, the temple of the Holy Spirit. I cannot tell you how much I love my Savior. Jesus Christ is the foundation of my hope, the object of my faith, and the center of my affections. I can venture my immortal soul upon Him. He is my best friend. He is altogether lovely—the chief among ten thousand. He is my wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. There is enough in Him to make a poor sinner rich, and a miserable sinner happy. His flesh and blood is my food, His righteousness my wedding garment, and His blood is efficacious to cleanse me from all my sins. Through Him I can obtain eternal life; for He is the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of His person; in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He deserves my highest esteem, and my warmest gratitude. Unto Him who loved me with an eternal love, and washed me in His own blood, unto Him be the glory, dominion, and power, for ever and ever! For He has rescued my soul from hell. He plucked me as a brand from the burning. He took me out of the miry clay, and out of a horrible pit. He set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings, and put in any mouth a new song of praise, and glory to Him! Glory to Him forever! Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God for ever and ever! Let the whole earth praise Him! Yea, let all the people praise Him!"

How sweet was all this, the transporting joy of his wife! It is beyond the power of the strongest imagination to conceive the joy and gladness of this family. It is the joy of seafaring men delivered from shipwreck; it is the joy of a man delivered from a burning house; it is the joy of not being found guilty at a criminal bar; it is the joy of receiving pardon to a condemned malefactor; it is the joy of freedom to a prisoner of war, and it is nothing in comparison to the joy of him who is delivered from going down to the pit of eternal destruction. For it is a joy unspeakable and full of glory."

