

'Luke' - Extra Teaching Points #12

Luke 8:1-21 (NASB95)

Luke 8:1-3

*Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, ² and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, **and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.***

Jesus traveled a circuit of towns and villages preaching the Kingdom of God.

- The gospel is not the gospel of 'going to Heaven'.
- The gospel is the 'good news of Christ's movement', fulfilling the promises that God made to Israel in the Old Testament.
 - God had promised to establish His Kingdom under a ruler; and it would be on earth, it would break up and swallow the other nations, and it would never come to an end. ([Dan 2:44-45](#))
 - The Kingdom of God is the movement on earth that began with Jesus and His disciples.
 - It has spread through the preaching of the gospel as people embrace the King – Jesus – and are rescued from the dominion of darkness, and transferred into the Kingdom of the Son of God. ([Col 1:13](#))

Preaching the Kingdom of God is: Calling people to repent, to believe that Jesus is the King, and to act like it!

Apparently Jesus' ministry was financed by several women.

- Jesus wasn't salaried, but those who had benefitted from His ministry supported him.

Other than Mary Magdalene, we don't know if any of His supporters had actually been demon-possessed; though *she* had been healed of 7 demons.

Extra Info on Mary Magdalene:

Catholic tradition holds that Mary Magdalene had been a prostitute.

- There is no Biblical reason to assume this, though some might think that having 7 demons would indicate she was very wicked.

In scripture, having a demon is not always indicative of a person being evil. Demon-possession is seen as an affliction.

- Some people probably were wicked and evil... reflecting more and more of the attitudes and actions of the demon afflicting them.
- Many of those who were afflicted with demons were deaf, or dumb, or blind, until the demon was cast out... and then they were ok. There is no evidence they behaved wickedly at all. ([Matt. 9:33](#); [12:22](#))
- Some demon-possessed people carried-on relatively normal lives, going to synagogue, and working like everyone else, manifesting the demonic affliction only when Jesus got too close ([Luke 4:33](#)).
- **Demons are tormentors of people.** No doubt they influence people in bad ways; but sometimes they just torment people.

The most likely explanation of how Mary Magdalene came to be thought of as a prostitute is because, at the end of [Luke 7](#), we are told of a prostitute who washed Jesus' feet with her tears; then, at the beginning of [Luke 8](#), we are introduced to Mary Magdalene, and told she'd been healed of 7 demons.

Luke 8:4-10

When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: ⁵ “The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out. ⁸ Other seed fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.” As He said these things, He would call out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” ⁹ **His disciples began questioning Him as to what this parable meant.** ¹⁰ And He said, “**To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.**”

Jesus used simple, seemingly unimpressive stories to teach profound spiritual truths.

- Jesus simply stated a common, well known fact about farming. (They were probably waiting for the “punch line” that never came.)
- To the average listener, these parables would have *obscured* the spiritual message... more than to *clarify* it, as one might expect.

Q: Why would Jesus teach lessons that obscured the message? Didn't He want people to understand His message?

- Apparently, He didn't want *everyone* to understand what He was saying.
- This was the '*mysteries*' of the Kingdom of God – **He doesn't give away His secrets to just anybody...** only to those who fear Him.
 - **Ps. 25:14** *The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant.*
- God is invading enemy territory... there is a war going on here... God wasn't going to give away His strategy to the enemy.
 - Jesus revealed God's strategy to those who were trusted comrades in this movement.

Q: If Jesus didn't want the mysteries of the Kingdom of God to get out to the wrong people, why was He preaching publicly?

- His disciples had not all been gathered out of the population yet.
- Potential disciples were those who were hungry for the Kingdom of God.
 - Anyone who was serious about God's Kingdom would not let Him get away without explaining things to them.
 - Anyone who didn't care enough to find out what He meant didn't have the right stuff to be one of His disciples.
- **Mark 4:34** *...and He did not speak to them without a parable; but He was explaining everything privately to His own disciples.*
 - Jesus never failed to explain things to the ones who cared enough to find out.

Luke 8:11-15

*“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those **beside the road** are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.”*

- Fields had pathways for the worker to walk on so that they wouldn't walk on and destroy the plants.
- Some people are like those pathways—the seed doesn't penetrate, and Satan doesn't want seed lying around that might find its way to fertile soil!
- In Matthews version ([Matt 13:19](#)), Jesus said this was the person who *heard the Word*, but *didn't understand it*.

¹³ *“Those on **the rocky soil** are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; **they believe for a while**, and in time of temptation **fall away**.”*

- Notice they believed for a while, so they were saved... *for a while*.
- When they encounter opposition, they give up. ([Matt 13:21](#))

¹⁴ *“The seed which fell **among the thorns**, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are **choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life**, and bring no fruit to maturity.”*

- These people could have produced fruit, but they got choked-out by less important things.

¹⁵ *“But the seed in **the good soil**, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and **bear fruit with perseverance**.”*

- The soil represents the heart. The good soil is a *good heart*.
 - The other soils are hard hearts, shallow hearts, and worldly hearts.
- “Perseverance” means “patient endurance.”
 - Those with good hearts don't back down from opposition, and they don't let worldly things become more important.
 - **They keep going and going until they begin to bear fruit!**

Luke 8:16-18

*“Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lampstand, so that those who come in may see the light. ¹⁷ “For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light. ¹⁸ “**So take care how you listen**; for whoever has, to him more shall be given; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has shall be taken away from him.”*

Vs. 16-17 If Jesus is talking about the message of the Kingdom being the ‘light’, which is currently being hidden under the *bushel* of the parables – Matt. 5:15 (ASV, KJV, etc.) – then He's saying the time will come when it will be clear enough to *everybody*.

Vs. 18 Those in the crowd who were capable of being His disciples, were coming to Him and asking questions and receiving more light.

- They had already received some light from the Old Testament, so they were ready for more.
- Those who didn't have any light – because they never pursued it, and didn't value it – were not going to get any more; in fact they were going to lose what little they had.

Q: What should we take from this teaching?

- We need to be careful how we listen to Jesus' teaching.
- If we are satisfied with the little bit of light we think we have now, we won't get any more; and what light we do have... may soon disappear!

Luke 8:19-21

And **His mother and brothers came to Him**, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. ²⁰ And it was reported to Him, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You.” ²¹ But He answered and said to them, “**My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.**”

Jesus’ response here may seem rude at first, but Mark’s version of this includes a back-story.

- **Mark 3:20-21** And He came home, and the crowd gathered again, to such an extent that they could not even eat a meal. ²¹ **When His own people heard of this, they went out to take custody of Him; for they were saying, “He has lost His senses.”**
- **Mark 3:31-35** Then His mother and His brothers arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. ³² A crowd was sitting around Him, and they said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You.” ³³ Answering them, He said, “**Who are My mother and My brothers?**” ³⁴ Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He said, “**Behold My mother and My brothers!**” ³⁵ **For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.**”

Apparently Mary and Jesus’ brothers thought Jesus was getting so fanatical that He wasn’t even eating properly, so they concluded He needed an intervention; perhaps even some de-programming.

Q: Why would Mary – who knew Jesus was the Son of God – think Jesus was nuts?

- She may not have thought He was crazy, but she probably thought He was imbalanced, and needed His mother.

Q: What does Jesus’ response tell us?

- *Real family are the ones in the Father’s house... submitting to the Father!*

Follow Up Assignment

Q: Which of the four types of soil best describes the condition of your heart? Why?

Q: Are you satisfied with the amount of light you have now... or are you looking for more?

- **Challenge:** Ask someone in your discipleship group if they think you’re looking for more light, or that you’re satisfied with what you have.
- If you aren’t in a discipleship group, or nobody knows you well enough to answer the question, what does that tell you?

Q: How do you define who your family is?

- Do you define who your family is the way Jesus does?
- Are you loyal to Jesus’ family the way Jesus is... or does another family have more of your loyalty?