



LUKE

Luke 8:1-25- A Sower and a Storm

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Luke 8:1-25

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

Open: What kind of storms have you run into in your life?

1. Read verses 1-15. How does this parable offer and overview of Jesus ministry with the various people in Luke's gospel? (Think of all the characters so far- Zechariah and Mary, Simeon and Anna, John the Baptist, Herod, the tax collectors, soldiers, Pharisees and teachers, the centurion and widow, a leper and possessed man, etc.)
2. Read verses 16-25. In a peasant culture like the one of Jesus' day, loyalty to family is extremely important. Describe the shock waves that Jesus would have sent through his followers and the whole society with his response to the sudden request of his family (and Mark 3:21 and John 7:5 for more background info). Jesus isn't saying that family has little or no importance. Rather, what is his point?
3. How does the story of the disciples in the boat fit in with the truths and lessons of the previous twenty-one verses in this chapter?
4. Luke outlines for us that the choice of faith is absolute. Either we trust Jesus or we are left at the mercy of the storm. We will only give the right answer to the question of who Jesus is when we realize that to give it commits us to total trust and obedience. In what areas do you find it easy to trust God and give him your obedience? In what areas do you find it difficult to trust and obey?

“Many of Jesus’ hearers were expecting something big and obvious when the kingdom of God arrived. That wasn’t happening, certainly not in the way that they thought. Through a parable and a storm, Jesus opened their eyes to see and hear what God was actually doing.”

-NT Wright

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ Think back to the Parable of the Soils. Apply it first to yourself, and then to the people around you.
 - How do you see the Word producing growth and fruit in your own life? Do you see areas or seasons of your life that demonstrate the other types of soil?
 - Now think about the people around you at work and where you live. What kinds of soil would you say they represent and why? What is your responsibility in the passage, and what is God's?
- ☀ Spend time praying to become good soil for the word of God and in response to question 4. Pray for the faith to give Jesus complete obedience to produce good fruit.

Luke 8:1-25

[1] Soon afterward he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with him, [2] and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, [3] and Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their means.

[4] And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, [5] "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. [6] And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. [7] And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. [8] And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

[9] And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, [10] he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'" [11] Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. [12] The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. [13] And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. [14] And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. [15] As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

[16] "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. [17] For nothing is hidden that will not be made manifest, nor is anything secret that will not be known and come to light. [18] Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

[19] Then his mother and his brothers came to him, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. [20] And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." [21] But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

[22] One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, [23] and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. [24] And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. [25] He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"