

LORD OF ALL
(Building Faith by 'Field-Testing' It)
Life of Christ Series – Luke's Gospel

Previously:

- ❖ Jesus Christ came on the public scene proclaiming a radical new way of connecting with the only true and living God - a personal relationship with Him, not merely religion about or to Him. His itinerate ministry in Galilee (*Luke 4*) made it clear that what Jesus offered was not rituals and pageantry to perform in religious edifices. His choice of disciples from common, ordinary people rather than professional clergy (*5:1-11*) proved that knowing God personally and intimately was for everyone, not just the theologically initiated 'in crowd'.
- ❖ Two healings (*5:12-26*) recorded by Luke graphically pictured the spiritual malady of people called *sin*; leprosy shows sin as God sees it – horrible, malignant and terminal; while paralysis portrays sin in its handicapping effect on man's ability to come to and walk with God.
- ❖ The rest of chapter 5 exhibits Christ as the only One Who can remove the barrier of sin and reconcile to God those who come to faith in Him.
- ❖ In chapter 6 Jesus presents His 'Constitution of the Kingdom'. As King, He selects His administration of apostles and challenges the multitudes to establish citizenship in the Kingdom of God through faith in Him as Lord (*6:46*) and by full submission to the authority of His teachings (*6:47-49*).
- ❖ Two miracles begin chapter 7 graphically displaying the two elements required in the chemistry of conversion: *man's side of it* - faith in Christ's Word as the Word of God (*7:1-10*) and *God's side of it* - sovereign choice and exertion of awesome power to bring alive what was (spiritually) deceased (*7:11-16*).
- ❖ With His popularity in decline and John the prophet in prison awaiting execution, Jesus challenges indecisive audiences to choose one way or the other regarding Him – ignore Him or adore Him (pictured in the two different treatments of Him at the public banquet scene) (*7:36-50*).

Luke Chapter 8:

- ❖ Begins a new phase of Jesus' ministry as He builds up the faith of those who have made the commitment to completely trust and follow Him as their Savior, Lord, and King. After specifically clarifying who Jesus' sincere followers are (*8:1-3*), the Lord unveils His new strategy for teaching and spreading the good news of the Kingdom.
- ❖ Teaching in parables will enlighten true disciples, while at the same time veil truth from those who have no intention of doing anything with what they hear Him say (*8:4-21*).
- ❖ In the remainder of *Luke 8* Jesus takes His disciples on a *faith field trip* to learn more about Who He is, the sphere of His authority, and the immense love He has for people in need.
- ❖ This trip with Jesus into various kinds of dilemmas (stormy sea, spooky cemetery, sickness and death) will build the faith of the twelve and prepare them for their **ministry assignments in chapter 9**... *May the Lord do the same for each of us as we examine this thrilling passage of scripture over the next two weeks.*

Christ's Discipleship Training
(Faith-Building by Facing Fear with Jesus)
Part 1: The Stormy Sea & the Demoniac
Luke 8:22-40

Faith – Don't Leave Home Without It!
(Field Test #1: Jesus is LORD of the Natural Realm)
synoptic accounts - Matthew 8:23-27 & Mark 4:35-41

*“Now it happened, on a certain day that (Jesus) got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.” And they launched out. But as they sailed, He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying “Master, Master, we are perishing!” Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, “**Where is your faith?**” And they were afraid and marveled, saying to one another, “**Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!**”* **8:22-25**

God may take us into *stormy* situations – if He does, it is to build our faith in our Savior Who has come aboard our life. In Christ you won't be *overwhelmed*; by faith you will *overcome* (1 John 5:4, 2 Timothy 1:7).

Faith – Don't Serve God Without It!
(Field Test #2: Jesus is LORD of the Spiritual Realm)
synoptic accounts – Matthew 8:28-34 & Mark 5:1-20

*“Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, **Jesus, Son of the Most High God?** I beg You, do not torment me!” (for He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man). For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.”* **8:26-29**

*“Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened and came to Jesus and found **the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind.** And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.”* **8:30-37**

*“Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, **“Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.”** And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.”* **8:38-39**

- ❖ When Christ truly saves a soul, He changes that heart and life dramatically. When sinners are truly freed from the bondage of Satan, immediate transformation begins. Real salvation is seen in personal tranquility, moral modesty, mental stability and deep spiritual need to worship and learn more at the feet of Jesus.
- ❖ This formerly demon-possessed man becomes Jesus' first missionary (*see Mark 5:20*). Several months later when Jesus visits that area just prior to His sacrifice on the cross, people are ready to believe (*John 10:42*).
- ❖ Like this man, each believer should feel the need to tell everyone their testimony of what God has done for them since Jesus has come into their heart and life. He wants us to **go tell** what He has done for you.