

The Charitable Women (8:1-3)

During Jesus' three-year ministry, He was financially supported by His followers. Among those who supported Him were several women, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna. They contributed money in order that Jesus might continue His ministry. This money was kept by Judas (John 12:5-6) and was used to help the poor and provide for the needs of Jesus and His disciples (John 13:29). Because of their support, Jesus was able to travel throughout the country preaching.

The Parable of the Sower (8:4-15)

When Jesus had gathered a crowd together, He taught them in parables. One of His most popular parables is the parable of the sower. He compared the teaching of the gospel to a sower planting seed. Part of his seed fell on the wayside, part on stony ground, part on thorny ground, and part on good ground. That which fell on the wayside was eaten by the birds; that which fell on stony ground quickly sprouted, but died when the hot sun beat down upon it; that which fell on thorny ground was choked out by the thorns and thistles; that which fell on good soil bore much fruit.

When He explained the parable, Jesus said that the seed represented the word of God (8:11). The various kinds of soil represented the different kinds of hearers. The wayside hearer is like the hardened man who will not allow the word of God to penetrate him; hence, the devil

snatches away the word before he believes. The stony ground hearer represents that person who has no deep-rooted character. At first, he promptly obeys the gospel, but when trials and persecutions come, he falls away. The thorny ground hearer is the hearer who obeys the



The Sea of Galilee approaching the north coast.

gospel, but allows the cares of this world to choke out the word. The good ground depicts the hearer with a good and honest heart who hears the word, obeys it, and perseveres in the service of God.

The Light Lit (8:16-18)

Jesus compared His disciples to a candle which has been lit. They are to give their light to others. The gospel, which Jesus spoke

somewhat privately to them on that occasion, would soon be taken into all the world (8:17). Therefore, they should be careful how they hear.

The Mother and Brothers of Jesus (8:19-21)

While Jesus was teaching, His mother and brothers came for Him. They were unable to approach Him because of the crowd. The word was passed to Him that they were seeking Him. Jesus replied, "My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it" (8:21).

Calming the Sea (8:22-25)

On a certain day, Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. While they were crossing the sea, Jesus slept. A squall hit the sea, causing waves which threatened to sink the boat. With all of their boating skills, the professional fishermen among them saw that they were unable to keep the boat afloat. In desperation, they turned to the carpenter from Galilee. They said, "Master, master, we perish." Then Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and the raging water. The winds quit blowing. There was

a great calm. The disciples were amazed, saying, “What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him” (8:25).

Healing the Gadarene Demoniac (8:26-40)

When the disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee, they entered into the country of the Gadarenes. There they met a demon-possessed man

demons were sent into the swine, the herd of swine (about 2,000, Mark 5:13) ran down the hillside into the sea and drowned.

Those responsible for tending the swine ran into the town and reported what had happened. A multitude of people came out to see Jesus. They asked Him to leave their region. The man from whom the demons had been cast asked



Tourists view the ruins at Kursi where a fifth century church was built in the area generally associated with Jesus’ miracle with the Gadarene demoniac. The modern site, El Kursi, is the only site of three possible locations which fits the geography of the gospel narrative. Above the village, a number of caves and tombs have been found, matching the biblical account.

who lived in the tombs, wore no clothes, and was extremely strong. The man had so many demons in him that he called himself “Legion.” When the demon-possessed man saw Jesus, he said, “What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not” (8:28). Jesus rebuked the demons, casting them from the man.

The demons begged Jesus not to command them to go into the deep, but to send them into the herd of swine feeding nearby. After the

Jesus to allow him to go with Him. Jesus told him to remain there and publish the good news throughout that region.

Healing the Woman with an Issue of Blood and Raising Jairus’ Daughter (8:41-56)

When Jesus returned to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, a ruler of the synagogue named Jairus begged Jesus to come heal his twelve-year-old daughter, his only child. She was dying. Jesus followed the man to his home.

A multitude followed Jesus to Jairus’ house. On the way, the multitudes were thronging around Jesus. A woman who had an issue of blood was in the multitude. For twelve years, she had sought healing from many doctors; although she had spent her living, she was no better. Having heard about Jesus, she reasoned that, if she could but touch Him, she would be healed. Hence, she came to Jesus and touched the border of His garment. Immediately, she was healed.

Jesus said, “Who touched me?” Everyone denied touching Him. Peter and the disciples were puzzled at Him, for with a whole crowd pressing against Him, suddenly He asks, “Who touched me?” Jesus was aware of what the woman did and led her to confess it. When the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling and telling her story. Jesus replied, “Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace” (8:48).

While Jesus was yet speaking, someone from Jairus’ house brought word that the little girl had died. Jesus comforted Jairus, saying, “Believe only, and she shall be made whole.” When they arrived at Jairus’ house, Jesus allowed only Peter, James, John, Jairus, and the child’s mother to accompany Him into the room where the child was lying. Those who were mourning her death were put out of the room. Jesus then went to the place where the girl was lying, took her by the hand, and said, “Maid, arise.” “And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and He commanded to give her meat.” Jesus raised the dead child!

Questions

1. How was Jesus supported during His ministry (vv. 1-3)? _____

2. From the parable of the sower and other Scriptures, show how God makes men believers. Is a direct operation of the Holy Spirit necessary to enable one to become a believer? _____

3. What things prevented the thorny ground hearer from bearing fruit (v. 14)? How do these same things affect you? _____
4. What had been kept secret but would soon be manifest (vv. 16-17)? _____
5. Why should a man be careful how he hears (v. 18)? _____
6. Who are the Lord's brothers and sisters (v. 21)? _____

7. Which of the disciples would have been well-qualified to manage a ship during a storm? _____

8. Why did the disciples turn to the carpenter from Nazareth? _____

9. What is implied in Jesus' question, "Where is your faith" (8:25)? _____

 - a. What does "faith" mean in this context? _____
 - b. How does faith help us in the times of trouble in life? _____
10. What did the miracle of stilling the tempest (vv. 22-25) show about Jesus? _____

11. Why was the Gadarene demoniac naked (v. 27)? _____
12. Who did the demon say Jesus was (v. 28)? _____
13. What did Jesus tell the healed demoniac to do when he left Gadara (v. 28)? _____

14. What does v. 43 and Mark 5:26 say about the condition of the woman with an issue of blood? _____

15. Why did Jesus make her tell what had happened? _____
16. What was the condition of Jairus' daughter when Jesus arrived (v. 53)? _____
17. Whose faith was necessary for Jairus' daughter to be raised? _____
18. Why must the one to be "healed" by modern faith healers have faith? _____

19. Why did Jesus charge His disciples to tell no one what He had done (v. 56)? _____

Matching

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| ___ 1. Woman from whom seven devils were cast out. | a. Gadara |
| ___ 2. Wife of Chuza. | b. Galilee |
| ___ 3. Country in which demoniac lived. | c. Mary Magdalene |
| ___ 4. Father of girl raised from the dead. | d. Joanna |
| ___ 5. Name of sea calmed by Jesus. | e. Jairus |

What Kind of Hearer?

Match the kind of hearer with the description given of him.

- a. Wayside hearer b. Stony ground hearer c. Thorny ground hearer d. Good ground hearer

- ___ 1. Has no interest in spiritual things.
- ___ 2. Tries to convert others.
- ___ 3. Cannot endure ridicule and mockery.
- ___ 4. Has a defiant attitude.
- ___ 5. Never gives up trying to be faithful.
- ___ 6. Allows interest in sports to cause him to forsake Jesus.
- ___ 7. Regularly jumps from one church to another.
- ___ 8. When shown his mistakes, he corrects them.
- ___ 9. Allows interests in earning money to take precedence over Christ.

Overcoming Denominational Error

List the miracles of this chapter. Mark the ones which a modern faith healer might try to perform. _____
