

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior Lesson Ten

[Luke 8:1-3].....With Purses Open...

- vs.2-3 These women were "disciples" of Jesus
They had also been cured and delivered by Jesus
These women were women of means and some of status(Joanna was the wife of Herod's domestic administrator)
They all took risks in being "public" followers of Jesus, but the risks did not keep them from financially supporting his ministry

[Luke 8:4-18].....Everyone's Not Gonna Get It

- vs.5-8a Jesus describes a situation that all are familiar with - agriculture was huge with the Jews (as it was with their ancestors)
- vs.8b This simply means that there is more to Jesus' words than the apparent or obvious meaning. Jesus was setting them up!
- vs.9 Jesus does not reprimand the disciples (in this gospel) as he *seemingly* would
Jesus knows that this parable is tricky; therefore, the disciples, themselves ask the question everyone is thinking

NOTE: Sometimes you don't know all that you think you know!

- vs.10 Jesus is speaking of the religious scholars who publicly parade their knowledge: "though seeing, they may not see (they think they see everything clearly, but parables prove to them that they don't); though hearing, they may not understand(they believe their understanding is among the best, but parables prove otherwise)
Real understanding **MUST** carry a response (this is why it is so important that the disciples asked this question)
- vs.11-15 For those of us who are not familiar with planting, the meaning can still be lost:
The actual meaning of this parable is that **NOT** all preaching and teaching will be effective or fruitful
Dr. Craddock says, "...it is in the honest, good, and patient heart that the word of God comes to full fruition" (pg. 113 of Interpretation: Luke)
- vs.16 Jesus' purpose was not to conceal but to reveal
- vs.17 Jesus didn't come to keep secrets, but to shed light on what had not been known: the reign of God and the kind of life within it
- vs.18 Parables don't bless all listeners the same way! (Some folks get some parables and not others - this is why there are so many)
Those who hunger and thirst to know and learn are "given more"
But those who think they have all the answers and know it all, "even what he thinks he has will be taken from him"

[Luke 8:22-25].....Two BIG Questions

NOTE: This is the first of four wonders in succession. This is important because Jesus sends out the twelve in chapter nine!

vs.22 "One day" is to be taken literally. There is no specific date or chain of events to determine when this took place

The lake they crossed was actually the Sea of Galilee. Luke uses "lake" for his Gentile readers (for them, "sea" meant Mediterranean)

NOTE: This story is unlike any others in the fact that it's an exorcism!

vs.23-24 During a storm on the lake, Jesus sleeps and the disciples panic
They wake Jesus up by saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"
Jesus "*rebuked* the wind and the raging waters" and the lake became calm

The word *rebuke* is what makes this wonder an exorcism. It leads us to believe that the winds and waters were out of their natural state - they were possessed.

vs.25 Jesus is making two statements with this question:

1.)The disciples had been with him long enough to have enough trust in God and in Jesus to access God's power

2.)They should have had a new level of *expectancy* with Jesus

Jesus knows what their immediate future holds for them, and they must be more faithful than this

The disciples ask, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

Every Christian asks this question of Jesus especially when he does something extraordinary