

Fear or Faith

Luke 8:22-56

Luke 8:22-56 - "The interplay between FEAR AND FAITH in these stories"

The Storm

Luk 8:22-56 ESV 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?"

Jesus said "Let us go across to the other side of the lake"

Description of Storms on Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is 150 feet deep and the shoreline sits 680 feet below sea level...Winds blowing over the mountains create downdrafts, sweep over the lake...it can kick up twenty-foot waves

- Luke calls it a SQUALL of wind...or a windstorm
- Matthew 8:24 Calls it "a great **tempest** in the sea"
 - Greek = **Seismos - earthquake** (must have been violent)
- They were filling with water - They were in danger
- They were fearful - (some of these were experienced fishermen) "Master WE are perishing"

They WAKE Jesus - He rebukes the wind and the waves - immediate calm

- Mark 4:40-41 ESV "Why are you so **afraid**? Have you **still no faith**?"
 - Jesus confronted their fear because He wants them to grow in faith
 - Have you STILL no faith?
 - He wants us to have faith - He has a plan to grow our faith

What effect did fear have?

They questioned His care and concern for them

- Mar 4:38 ESV But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

They let their circumstances [the storm] carry greater weight than His word [let's go over]

---(think of Peter walking on the water)

- Jesus said, "Let us go over unto the other side" (Jesus's words)
- They said - "Don't you care that we are perishing?"
- The STORM stood in the middle of these two statements -
 - **Is ANY storm strong enough stop his word from coming to pass?**
 - **He WORD commanding the storm to stop was to show the disciples the power of His word**

Fear limited their ability to see with eyes of faith what He truly had the capability of doing (He able to do more than we ask or think) (think of the loaves and fish) ---

- When they woke Him - I wonder what did they expect he would do? - **Bail water?**
 - They probably didn't say "I'll bet if we wake Him up He will rebuke the wind and sea and it will be calm"
 - They had no idea that he would COMMAND the winds and the sea - they seemed shocked
- We call upon Him as God "**save us Lord**" - but our expectation of what he will do often falls into the realm of what may be humanly possible - they marveled because what they saw was so unexpected - "**What sort of man is this?**"
 - Matthew 8:25-27 ESV And they went and woke him, saying, "***Save us, Lord***; we are perishing." (26) And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. (27) And the men marveled, saying, "***What sort of man is this***, that even winds and sea obey him?"

POINT OF THE STORY

We will all go through storms --- unexpected events we are not prepared for - or can't control

- The question is will faith sustain us --- or will we be gripped with fear?

The Story of the Gadarene

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. 34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and **found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.** 36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for **they were seized with great fear.** So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

The effect of the demons on the man

- LONG TIME --- had worn no clothes --- he had not lived in a house but among the tombs
- For many a time it had seized him
- He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles
- He would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert

The effect of Jesus on the demons

- Demons recognized him as son of the Most High --- and Jesus had authority over them
- They begged Jesus to not send them to the abyss
 - Rev 9, 11, 17 and 20 - a place where evil spirits are imprisoned
 - demons feared the deep (the abyss - the bottomless pit)
- They begged him to go to the pigs --- he gave permission --- demons are subject to him
- Legions of demons fled at his command

The effect of the deliverance on the man

- Sitting at the feet of Jesus --- Clothed --- In his right mind (What FREEDOM)
- Wanted to be with Jesus --- he begged that he might be with him
- Proclaiming throughout the whole city [Decapolis - ten cities] how much Jesus had done

What effect did fear have?

- People can fear the changes Jesus brings vs. hang on to life as it was with Satan in control
 - The removing of the pigs they didn't like --- rocked their economy
- Fear incited them to ask Jesus to depart - he gave them as they wished
- People fear what coming to Jesus means - example
 - Man I talked with did not want to surrender to Christ - didn't want to give up "having a good time"
 - Don't want to stop living together - I am better financially
 - I'm afraid of failing - I'd rather stay in the place of bondage than be free
 - I'm afraid of what Jesus might ask of me

The Woman with the Issue of Blood

40 Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him.

41 And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. **[MORE ON THIS LATER]** As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.

43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. 44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

45 And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!" 46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me." 47 And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, **she came trembling**, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. 48 And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

Women who touched his garment came trembling - this may be the reason she feared exposure

- "When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period. Any bed she lies on while her discharge continues will be unclean, as is her bed during her monthly period, and anything she sits on will be unclean, as during her period. Whoever touches them will be unclean; he must wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he will be unclean till evening." (Leviticus 15:25-27)

Her Faith Overcame Her Fear

- Somehow she knew if she could just get to HIM all would be ok
 - Matt 9:21 - If I may just touch the hem of his garment I shall be whole
- Her faith moved her to press through the obstacle of the crowd to touch him
- Her faith overcame discouragement --- she had a lengthy illness --- 12 years
- Her faith overcame continuous failure --- she could not be healed by anyone
- Her faith brought a response from Jesus
 - Who touched me? - Matt 5:30 - Jesus knew that virtue had gone out of him

Jairus

Back to Jairus --- 40 Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. 41 And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him...**[The Interruption of the Woman with An Issue of Blood for 12 Years]**...49 While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." 50 But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "**Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.**" 51 And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. 52 And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." 53 **And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.** 54 But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." 55 And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. 56 And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Roller Coaster of Emotions - Culminating in FEAR

- Wonder how he felt when Jesus stopped to care for the woman with the issue of blood
- Wonder how he felt when he was told "your daughter is dead"
- Wonder how he felt when he was told "don't trouble the Teacher any more"
- Wonder how he felt when Jesus said
 - **DO NOT FEAR - ONLY BELIEVE AND SHE WILL BE WELL**

What effect could fear have?

- Jesus can meet the **small needs** in my life - “My daughter is sick” - but **not the big things** - “Your daughter is dead”
- The false understanding that our requests **trouble** the Teacher
 - He tells us to come to the throne of grace in the time of need
- We laugh at Him because we think we KNOW better than what HE SAYS is true
 - They were amazed when the child arose --- Matthew said they were astonished with astonishment - GK = a displacement of the mind, bewilderment, “ecstasy”

Summary

Jesus wants us to have faith - “Do you still have no faith?”

- Some of us will be rebuked for our fears (apostles in the boat) --- BUT know He still takes us on a journey to grow in faith (he took Peter, James and John into the house with him)
- Some of us (like the people of the town) will be overcome by our fears --- but he still leaves a witness to glorify Himself (tell everyone the good things the LORD has done for you)

Jesus will encourage our faith

- He affirmed the faith of the woman who touched him
- He helped Jairus in his moment of weakness and hopelessness
- **BE NOT AFRAID - ONLY BELIEVE**