

## Jesus: The King of Hearts and Faith (Part 2)

### Luke 8:22-56

Have you ever had one of those nights where you cannot sleep because there was too much going on in your life? You may be here this morning and you had a sleepless night last night because you were anxious or fearful over something. We live in a world that is broken that can fill our hearts and minds with anxiety and fear. It is often said that the two greatest fears are public speaking and death and public speaking is number one.

Does your faith in Jesus keep you from being anxious? Does it keep you from being filled with fear of some future event that may or may not happen? Faith and fear are connected in that our faith should drive out our fears but the sad truth is that it does not always do that. It is not because faith does not work it is because we give fear a foothold in our hearts and minds and our faith is weak.

What we need to do is keep our faith grounded in Jesus the Son of God, the King and He has authority over what God has authority over: creation, demons, devils, disease, and death. The miracles Jesus performed in our text today show that He is the King who speaks and by the power of His word the storm is stopped and the sea is made calm. By the power of His word He sets the captives free from demons, disease, and death. By the power of His word our faith is strengthened. **Here is the main point of the sermon today:** *Faith given by the King of Hearts marvels at the King not at the trials and tribulations.*

#### **I. Faith that drives our fear, is faith that marvels at the King in the middle of the storms of life. (Luke 8:22-25)**

When we read this story of Jesus and His disciples in the boat we may have trouble relating because we do not quite understand what it is like to be on a fresh water sea when a gale suddenly blows up on the open water. The closest things we have are the Great Lakes, which technically are vast in-land seas, and so you may know of a few stories about the ship wrecks on the Great Lakes. The most famous one is probably wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* and that is because of the Gordon Lightfoot song *The Edmund Fitzgerald*.

The *Edmund Fitzgerald* was an amazing freighter in its day. It was 600 feet long and at its christening on June 8, 1958, was the largest ship on the Great Lakes. But on November 10, 1975, the gales of November came early and as the song says,

*That good ship and crew was a bone to be chewed*

*When the gales of November came early.<sup>1</sup>*

The fact is vast in-land seas like the Great Lakes and the Sea of Galilee have very treacherous waves. Since they are smaller than oceans, they are subject to quick changes in the temperature and wind. The waves are non-rhythmic and contradictory because of the surrounding topography.

The Sea of Galilee is only five miles wide and thirteen miles long and so the surrounding topography has an even greater affect. The Sea of Galilee is positioned below sea level and surrounded by imposing mountains with deep ravines. These ravines allow gigantic funnels of wind to pour suddenly out on to the water. Without a moment's notice a gale can be fueled by a thermal build up and the extremely low valley next to the sea sucks the cold air violently downward over the water creating a tremendous storm on the water.

**It was in a sudden storm like this that we find Jesus and His disciples in vv. 22-25.** Yet, as water filled the boat we find Jesus sleeping through it all. The disciples, whom most were very, experienced sailors, were terrified. So, they woke Jesus and He

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<sup>1</sup> Gordon Lightfoot, *The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, 1975, <http://www.gordonlightfoot.com/WreckOfTheEdmundFitzgerald.shtml>.

rebuked the wind and it became dead calm. **Mark 4:39** says, *“And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”*

**After rebuking the storm and the sea, Jesus rebuked His disciples, “Where is your faith?”** The last part of **v. 25** says, *“And they were afraid and they marveled saying to one another, ‘Who then is this that he commands even the winds and water, and they obey him?’”* The disciples *marveled* at the power of the Son of God and that drove fear out of their hearts.

**This miracle is an allusion to Psalm 107. Listen to vv. 28-31:**

<sup>28</sup> *Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.*

<sup>29</sup> *He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.*

<sup>30</sup> *Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.*

<sup>31</sup> *Let them thank the Lord for his **steadfast love**, for his wondrous works to the children of man!*

When we see this miracle through the lens of **Psalm 107** we understand that Jesus is the God of **Psalm 107**. By the person and work of Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead we know we can turn to Him in times of trouble. By our faith in Him, we are able to sing the song of **Psalm 107:1-3**:

<sup>1</sup> *Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his **steadfast love** endures forever!*

<sup>2</sup> *Let the **redeemed** of the Lord say so, **whom he has redeemed** from trouble*

<sup>3</sup> *and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.*

**We are** His people whom He has gathered. **We are** the redeemed and let us bear witness to the peoples of the world that we are His. **We call** to the only One who can save us in times of trouble and it is because of His steadfast covenant love that we can come to Him.

#### **Application:**

- 1. Jesus gives us faith to marvel at the King on the day of Judgment.** The steadfast love of God is seen in the worst storm that ever occurred in the history of mankind. On the Hill of Golgotha, the winds of the wrath of God blew on the Son of God for our sin. This was not some sudden storm but the storm of the punishment for our sin that had been providentially planned since Creation. In the death of the Son of God we see the redemption of God’s people. The Creator became creature and received the creatures’ punishment for their sin as the storm of the wrath of God blew up on Him. He was buried then burst forth from the grave on the third day and on that day, He said, *“Peace be still!”* And there came a great peace between God and His people.

It means that if you have faith in Jesus that when the Day of Judgment comes that the storm of the wrath of God will not break out against you. It does mean on that Day you will know the fullness of the peace of God because instead of looking at your sin you will, by faith, marvel at the work of the King on your behalf.

Friend you need to know that Jesus took the storm of the wrath of God for you. He took the wrath that was stored up for you. Because He did this you can trust Him to the storm in your heart. If you have not trusted Jesus, then you know there is no peace between you and God. You know that if you died today that you would face the unrelenting storm of God’s wrath. I urge you to turn from your sin and to Jesus today and hear Him say to you, *“Peace be still.”*

- 2. The King of Hearts gives us faith to marvel at the King in the crises of life.** Jesus was able to sleep in this storm because He trusted God. Jesus models what it means to trust God in the storms of life. Faith and sleep are connected in this text. Jesus becomes the model of what it means to trust God in the storms of life. He was able to sleep in the bow of the boat because He trusted God. Sleeping at night when the storms of life are raging are only possible because you trust that Jesus has received the

ultimate storm for you. We can by faith, sleep in the arms of Jesus because we know that Jesus has endured and overcome the worst of any storm—the storm of God’s wrath.

Also, brothers and sisters in Christ, we must remember we are not in storm tossed boat of life alone. Our boat is filled with disciples too. But I want you to ask you something, what would have happened if one of the disciples would have said, *“Wait, why are we worried and anxious? Look Jesus is asleep. Take heart for if the Savior is not worried, then we should not be worried either.”* It may have changed the whole attitude in the boat.

**Let’s encourage one another when our faith is weak.** Let’s come to Jesus together, we do not have to wake Him up, He knows what is going on. Let us rebuke one another when our faith is failing by asking, *“Where is your faith in Jesus?”* *Let the redeemed of the Lord say so by reminding one another of the steadfast love of Jesus that is seen in the good news of the person and work of Christ on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.* Let’s remember that God the Father does not sleep or slumber. He knows what is going on in our lives. He is not caught off guard or fretting or worried about how things work out. We can trust Him in life’s greatest storms. By faith, let Him speak to your heart, *“Peace be still.”*

**Transition:** Let’s keep working through our text.

## **II. Faith given by the King of Hearts marvels at the face of the King and not the face of death. (Luke 8:26-56)**

In Jesus encounter of demon possessed man of the Gerasenes, we find another allusion to **Psalm 107**. It is further evidence that Jesus is the King God promised to send to deliver His people from their bondages of sin. **Listen to how Psalm 107:10-16 shows how God saves His people:**

- <sup>10</sup> *Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in affliction and in irons,*
- <sup>11</sup> *for they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High.*
- <sup>12</sup> *So he bowed their hearts down with hard labor; they fell down, with none to help.*
- <sup>13</sup> *Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.*
- <sup>14</sup> *He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and burst their bonds apart.*
- <sup>15</sup> *Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!*
- <sup>16</sup> *For he shatters the doors of bronze and cuts in two the bars of iron.*

The allusion here is to the King’s miraculous redemption of those in bondage. Jesus is the God of **Psalm 107** who has come to those who held in bonds of iron. Jesus is the One who will shatter the doors of bronze and cut the bars of iron off of those He redeems.

### **A. Jesus gives us faith to marvel at the King even when we are in the shadow of death (vv. 26-39)**

**The theme of impurity forms the background of these next three miraculous redemption stories.** The man living among the tombs was as good as dead. He was incredibly unclean to a Jew. He was unclean simply by being a Gentile but it was made worse because of his circumstances. **He was unclean because** he was demon possessed. **He was unclean because** he lived in the graveyard (graveyards back then were not nice places like they are today). No one could be or wanted around this man (or men, Matthew 8 says there are two men). His lived a destructive life. He was so destructive that the people of the village had to bind him with chains and irons but he was so strong he could even break those apart. Finally, and to make matters even worse, the man was naked. Satan will take a pig or a man and if he is given a man he will turn him into an animal and destroy his life.

**Imagine the uncleanness of this man’s life.** Imagine the shame of his life! His life literally was in a living Hell and no one, except Jesus could change his sin scarred, hell ravaged life.

**The man may not have known who Jesus was or what He could do but the demons did for when they met Jesus they trembled. They remembered** their King who removed them from the presence of God. **They knew** Jesus was God incarnate. **They trembled** in His presence for they thought when they met Him again He would send them to their final destruction in the abyss.

**This was not a one-on-one battle.** There were thousands of demons in this man and only one Savior. Numerically it was not a fair fight but at the word of Jesus the demons submitted. They had to obey the word of the King.

However, instead of casting them into the abyss, Jesus allowed them to go into the pigs and at His word they left the man and went in the pigs.

Everything from winds and waves and from demons and devils must obey the word of God.

#### **Application:**

1. **It is by the word of God that the King of Hearts sets us free from sin.** If we think of this man's deliverance from the perspective of the immediate context and the *Parable of the Soils*. But how did that happen? It happened when Jesus delivered the man. By that miraculous deliverance the man was given ears to hear the word.

Likewise, we must be given ears to hear and take in the seed of the word of God and it is the seed of the Gospel that changes us.

**This is why we love the word of God here at GABC.** God's word is powerful and active and sets the captives free. We must preach the full counsel of the word of God and we will see the power of God. The spreading of the seed of the word of God is true and full spiritual warfare. It is at God's word that demons and devils are cast out. It is to the word of God that the sinner must submit.

This is why we want everyone to hear the word and those who hear the word to spread the word of God. The more we hear the word of God, the more we love the word of God and the more of it we have.

**Friend how do you respond to the word of God?** How do you respond to the word of God in Christ? Do you love to hear the gospel preached? Are you excited to see the word working in your life and in the lives of others?

2. **It is by the word of the King that we are made pure and clothed in Christ (v. 35).** There was some clothing work to be done in this man's life. To be set free by the King means that his life was restored. This man basically was like the living dead. He lived like a dead man, dressed like a dead man (naked) and was treated like a dead man (he lived in the graveyard). Yet the power of word of the King changed all that. At the word of the King the demons were cast out, his mind was restored, like Lazarus the grave clothes came off. The man was given not just any clothes but the clothes of the King.

**Notice what the man did after Jesus had delivered him from the demons in v. 38.** He begged Jesus that He might go with Him. Jesus did not allow it, most likely because the man was a Gentile and that time had not come yet. But Jesus did commission him to go home and tell *how much God had done for him and that was what he did*.

3. **Warning: Do not reject the word and work of the King (vv. 36-39).** The people who saw that Jesus had delivered the demon possessed man did not celebrate word and work of God but instead rejected it. Whatever you do, do not reject God's word.

The demons and the people of the Gerasenes responded to Jesus the same way—they wanted to get away from Jesus. This is how many people respond to Jesus today. They would simply love it if Jesus, churches, the Christian faith and everything that goes with it would simply go away.

**As one pastor said,** *"Many people are like the people of the Gerasenes. When they visit a church, they see a room full of former sinners and reprobates. And they see how Christ has cleaned us up, how He has clothed us in our right mind, and has begun to renew our lives. They hear the explanation: 'God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that*

everyone who believe in him will not perish but have eternal life' (John 3:16). They will hear people tell them that new and eternal life can be theirs through Jesus Christ. And do you know what they do? They effectively ask Jesus to leave . . . They reject eternal life and the Savior."<sup>2</sup>

4. **Church we must accept those who reject the gospel.** We have many friends and neighbors who will respond like the people of the Gerasenes and want us to just leave. They may come to church but can't get away fast enough. Most people will not even darken the doors of our church building. Yet, that does not give us an excuse to reject them.

We are living in a post-Christian culture and this means most people will never come to church so that means we must do what Jesus did and go to the hard places in life with the word of God.

For some of us that means we will leave Grand Avenue and Ames and go to the hard places in the world with the gospel. Some of us will learn how to open our homes to them and understand that they may reject the gospel and even us but they will not reject the mercy we show when we love on them with the gospel. *So, even if they reject us and the gospel let's keep proclaiming all that God has done for us.* Let's keep practicing hospitality and having them in our homes and sowing the seed of God's word.

**B. Jesus gives us faith to marvel at the King in the face of death (vv. 40-56)**

These last two stories give a foretaste of the restoration and resurrection that comes by the word of the King. In **v. 40**, Jesus and his disciples got back in the boat and left Gerasenes and went back to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When they returned the crowd was still there, waiting on Him and no sooner than He had stepped on shore, the ruler of the synagogue, Jairus came to Him and fell on Jesus' feet begging Him to come heal his twelve-year-old daughter who was about to die.

Jesus began to make His way to Jairus' house but the crowd was pressing in on Him and His disciples so much that it was difficult for them to get through. While they were making their way through the crowd there a woman who had an *issue of blood* looked to Jesus by faith and touched Him and she was healed. This *issue of blood* was most likely a menstrual cycle bleeding issue where she had not stopped bleeding for twelve years. This illness would have made her feel like walking death because she was constantly sick and weak. In addition, she had spent all of her money on doctors who could not heal her.

But these were not the biggest problems. Her biggest problem was that she could not worship. Because of her uncleanness she was cut off from God. Worship of Yahweh was the center of Jewish life and she was completely cut off from life. She could not go to the temple, offer sacrifices or even be around other people because the Law said that if a person who was unclean touched another person then that person became unclean too. She could spread her uncleanness. Her constant condition of impurity was like the curse of death.

**Yet, when she touched Jesus her impurity was removed.** Jesus knew He has been touched. So He asked, "*Who was it that touched me?*" He knew holy power had gone out from Him. By the way, Jesus never asked questions because He didn't know the answer. The purpose of His question was to bring the woman's faith out into the light for all to see (**cf. 16-17**) and marvel at her faith the most importantly the object of her faith—the King.

You need to understand this very important point. In the Old Covenant, when something unholy touched something holy that which was holy became unholy. Uncleanness was a big problem in the Old Covenant. It had to be dealt with by the shedding of the blood of a spotless lamb. If the blood of a perfect lamb was not used to cover the uncleanness then the

<sup>2</sup> Thabiti Anyabwile, author, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Luke*, Series editors: David Platt, Daniel L. Akin, and Tony Merida, 152.

uncleanness remained and would spread. In the old covenant if something holy came in contact with something unclean or unholy then that which was holy became unclean. So you see uncleanness was a serious problem.

Yet, when the woman touched Jesus, He did not become unholy. Instead the holiness of the Holy One of God flowed out from Him and cleansed her. His holiness healed her and made her clean and whole. It restored her life.

**Application: Friends we are like the woman.** Our sin had made us unholy and unclean and therefore we are separated from God by our sin. But praise God, Jesus is still making the unclean—clean. Jesus is still making those who have no worship, no love of God, those who hate God and who are separated from God by their unholiness—holy when they touch Him by their faith in Him.

On the cross the blood of Jesus Christ was shed in order to purify anyone who places their faith in Christ. It does not matter what you have done, where you are from, what is wrong with you or if you think you are the most wicked sinner in the history of the world. When you touch Jesus Christ by your faith, He makes you clean. He makes you holy.

**Verse 49**, tells us right after this someone came from Jairus' house telling him that his daughter was dead. Notice what Jesus said, *"Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well."* Jesus gets to the house and makes the unbelieving crowd leave. They will not get to see the foretaste of the resurrection in Jesus because of their unbelief.

**Jesus goes to the girl and takes her hand and says, "Child arise."** **Mark 5:41** records that Jesus words were, *"Talitha cumi", which means, 'Little girl, I say to you, arise.'"* Tim Keller says Jesus words sounded more like, *"Sweetheart, wake up, it is morning."*

#### **Application:**

Friends if you have faith in Christ, then this is how Jesus will speak to you at the resurrection. He will wake you up to a resurrected life. On this side of heaven, Jesus speaks to our hard, dead hearts through the seed of the gospel and gives us new life in Him this is a foretaste of the resurrected life that is to come.

#### **Conclusion**

In all of these stories we looked at we see *that when God gives us faith to marvel and glory at the face of our King not at the trials and tribulations.* Friends, **Romans 10:17** says that faith comes by hearing the word of God. Through the word of God, He gives us faith that saves us so that on the last day we will have ears to hear the voice of the Savior say, *"Child, sweetheart, wake up. It is time to wake up."*

Through the word of God, He also gives us faith that sustains us in the storms of life and in the face of death. Brothers and sisters stay in the word for it will strengthen your faith.