

Misplaced Fear

Welcome

If you are new...

Introduction

If you have a Bible...

5 months ago, Authority of Jesus (riots, Coronavirus)

Today, (Election, Mutations in the Virus)

Sermon Title

Luke 8:22-39

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?"

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.

Context/Story

- Large Crowds following Jesus all the time

- Jesus tells the disciples that He wants to go to the other side of the lake. This is not a whim, he is not sightseeing. What is on the other side of the lake? A demon possessed man.
- So they set out to take Jesus to the other side. Jesus, probably very tired from the work of ministry, falls asleep in the boat. That is an impressive feat in and of itself. Small fishing boat, Large waves = nausea and vomiting not peaceful slumber.
- Disciples see the storm. And begin to freak out. The boat is filled with water, They are terrified. So they run over to Jesus only to find him asleep, so they wake him up.
- He rebukes the storm
 - I find the word rebuke to be absolutely awesome. The whole time Jesus is treating this storm like an afterthought.
 - he just commands creation and it obeys him
- Then He turns to the disciples and asks them, “Where is your faith?”
 - Gestures*

Don't Fear the Storm (22-25)

1. Explain
 - a. A number of them were experienced boatmen, familiar with Galilean storms. Large waves like these had quickly swamped and sunk other boats like theirs. But had you asked them after Jesus calmed the storm, they would have said, “We really didn’t believe that he had that kind of power.”
 - b. While the storm raged the disciples believed that it was more powerful than Jesus and thus their panic ruled them.. They did not believe that Jesus ruled over this earthly danger. They didn’t trust him. And so we see Jesus rebuked them for fearing the lesser power over the greater Power. And this gets to the nub of the issue for our fears too.
 - c. Maybe this is you this morning. Your life is a mess... abuse, out of work, depression,
 - d. The storm is not the point
 - i. Storms threaten to sink our faith. These are not everyday inconveniences like a flat tire or a hassle at work. These are the difficulties that cause us to question God’s goodness. Prolonged illness, the death of a loved one, a loss of purpose, a marriage destroyed—and it seems like God is asleep. If he really cared, if he really understood, then surely he would stop this from happening. We pray for healing and relief, for opportunity, for reconciliation, for anything that will make the storm pass.
 - ii. All this may be a reality, but if we end our story focusing on the storm we will have a weak view of Jesus’ mission on earth. Jesus didn't come to calm storms. He came to defeat death. He came to take this world back from the powers of Satan and his minions. The storm was just in the way.
 - e. Yes, the storm is real and terrifying—the disciples believe that they will not survive—but the point is not about surviving the storm. The point is about who is in the boat with them. Yes, Jesus can calm the storms of our lives. That is wonderfully true, and I myself have been encouraged by that knowledge. But

Jesus didn't come to calm storms, he came to save souls. Jesus didn't come to give me a comfortable life, he came to defeat death. That is not an easy path.

- f. "But Brandon," you say, "what about 'casting my cares' on God? Doesn't he care that I am suffering?" Yes, of course he does. But...
2. Prove
 - a. Romans 8:18 - For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.
 - b. 2nd Corinthians 4:17 - For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison
 - c. Paul in prison writing his final letter before he is murdered for His faith
 - d. 2nd Timothy 1:12 - which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.
 - i. Paul is not in denial about suffering, but his faith in Jesus Christ is unshakable regardless of his circumstances
 3. Apply
 - a. Statistics
 - i. This is how people would walk to the hanging noose joyfully singing praises to God! This is how people would endure heavy persecution
 - ii. Every day, 13 Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith, 12 churches or Christian buildings are attacked and 12 Christians are unjustly arrested or imprisoned, while another 5 are abducted.
 - iii. There are 309 million Christians living in places with "very high" or "extreme" levels of persecution.
 - iv. 1 in 8 Christians worldwide are facing persecution.
 - b. Storms are real. But there is a reason that people are willing to suffer for Jesus.
 - c. A day is coming... when the storms will be gone, the lord will fix what is broken, like the garden, walk with God in the cool of the day!
 - d. We can spend our entire lives focused on the storms. Fearing them, frustrated by them, lamenting the hardship they bring. But until we can learn to take our eyes off the storm and place them on the God who reigns over them. We will never really have faith.
 - e. It's not about us. It's not about the storm. God allows these circumstances in our lives that are exceedingly difficult because He is more concerned with our holiness than our happiness. Jesus is bigger than your storm.

Don't Fear the Supernatural

1. Explain
 - a. So they get to the other side of the lake, the moment He steps out of the boat, He is greeted by this demon possessed man.
 - b. Now... here is the elephant in the room, Yes We do believe as Christians, because the Bible teaches it, and Jesus confirms it, that there really is a Satan, a devil, the serpent. And there really are demons, fallen angels, who work with him.

- c. The Bible says that God is creator and everyone and everything else is created by the creator God. And Satan, the leader of the demons, and the demons, the unclean spirits, the fallen cursed angels, they were created by God in a state of perfection and sinlessness. They were created to worship, and serve, and honor, and obey God, but the Bible tells us that they rebelled against God, and they wanted to be God, and they wanted glory for themselves, and they were filled with pride.
 - d. Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28 give us an indication that there was a war in heaven, and Satan was defeated, and those who aligned with him were defeated by God and cast out of heaven. And the battlefield moved to earth, where 1st Peter says, He prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - e. And one of the greatest lies Satan has ever told, as one film indicates at the end, is convincing the world that he doesn't exist.
 - f. So here is a demon possessed man who has a lot of demons, multiple demons, who have taken up residence within Him.
 - i. He wore no clothes, Lived in burial tombs, all the kids knew, "Don't go near the grave site, don't go to the tombs because there is a crazy naked, demonized man running around. People had totally given up on this guy. They had tried to shackle him, he broke the shackles. So they just let him run wild, and the goal was to avoid him.
 - ii. Not the kind of person you want greeting you after a long stormy trip across the sea of Galilee.
 - g. Everyone is afraid of the demons within this man, but what we see in our story is that these demons are afraid of Jesus. Why?
 - i. Because while the demons have authority over this man, Jesus has authority over the demons.
 - ii. They knew who Jesus was, "Son of the most high God"
 - 1. Side note, Believing God exists is not enough to get into heaven, the demons believe in God, and hate Him. The thing that God desires from you and I and everyone, is Faith, Trust, Submission. Lordship.
 - h. Legion is a term for a military fighting unit in the Roman Empire of about six thousand soldiers. I don't know if there are that many demons in that man, Many commentaries say that is likely an exaggeration. Who knows.
 - i. 2000 Pigs - Jews would not have been raising pigs like this.
 - j. Jesus Changes People.
2. Prove
- a. 2nd Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
 - b. Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

3. Apply

a. Gospel

- i. We don't have to live like we once did. If you are here, and you are living your life one storm at a time, It feels like you are being tossed in every direction. Maybe like the demon possessed man, you are alone, you have lost all hope, you have gone too far, sinned to much, hurt too many people.
- ii. Jesus came for you. He came down from heaven, took on human flesh, lived a life you, and I could never live, Sinless, perfect. And died the death you and I deserved to die,
- iii. And Jesus Changes People
 1. some of you, that's your story. I was a drug addict. Boop. done. You say, "Well, what happened?" "I don't know. Done. I don't know. I met Jesus. I'm different. I can't tell you what happened. Jesus is great." Some of the people in this room, that's your story. The occult, demonism, false religion, insanity, reckless behavior, addiction, complete self-absorbed narcissist. Jesus shows up. Boop. Different.
 2. That's this guy! Last time I saw him he was naked and he has a 2 foot long moses beard and he's running around scaring kids. What's he doing now?" "Oh, he's in Bible college. He's sitting there taking notes." See, this is our hope for people. This is our hope for our city. This is our hope for our world. If people meet Jesus, anything can happen.

b.

Fear the Lord (Conclusion)

- Is your fear misplaced?
 - I want to take a moment and notice something together. I want us to look at the responses of the people who encounter Jesus in our two stories.
- Vs 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.
- Mark 4:41 - they were filled with great fear and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'
- This person. Jesus Christ, who was standing right next to them, had absolute, supreme power over every aspect of both the Natural and Supernatural world.
- Philippians 2:9-11 - Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- God is Loving AND Just
 - Loving

- Just
- Get right with God. He loves you!

Response (Lords Supper)

Here at Celebration Church we practice an open table for The Lord's supper. What that means.

- Christian - feel free to join us even if this is not your home church
- For the non-Christian... this is not for you. We ask that you let the plate pass you by, and urge you to take Christ instead.

This morning as we come to the table, we look back to the cross. the place where our Savior's body was broken for our sins.

Dave Bowman - Prayer for the bread

Take a few moments now in prayer remembering the cross and what was done for you there

the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me. TAKE AND EAT

Just as we looked back with the bread, we look forward with the cup, longing for the day when Jesus comes again. Christ said, "I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." we look forward to that day.

Larry Walker - prayer for the cup

Pass out the cup Take a few moments now in prayer looking forward to the day when we can share in the cup with our lord.

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. TAKE AND DRINK

Pray



LUKE 8:22-39

INTRODUCTION

In the chaos of life we often forget the reach of God's power. We often have a small view of Jesus by compartmentalizing Him to the "spiritual" aspects of our lives. But Jesus has authority over both the spiritual and physical. Genuine faith means we fix our gaze on Jesus Christ in the midst of storms, trials, temptations and burdens.

DISCUSSION

- What areas of life do you have a harder time seeing Jesus impact directly?

EXPLANATION

- Why are the disciples and Jesus on the lake in the first place?
- Why is Jesus so apathetic about the storm, and the fear the disciples had?

APPLICATION

- In what circumstances is it easy for you to remember the sovereignty and power of God?
- In what circumstances do you find it hard to trust in God?
- In what ways is each of us like the demonized man in this Scripture?
- How is this interaction with the demonized man a picture of salvation for us?
- How does your understanding the authority of Jesus change the way you live?

THE 5 W's (broken up into gendered groups)

- Word (How have you gotten into the word this week?)
- Wife/Husband/Family (How are you doing with your spouse/family?)
- Wellness (What are you doing to take care of yourself?)
- Work (How are you handling the work God has given you?)
- Witness (Who have you witnessed to, or prayed for this week?)