

Power Over (Luke 8:22-56)

What happens when we come to the end of our resources, when we face circumstances beyond our control? Ever experience fear that feels more like panic? Maybe it was the lack of control over a natural disaster, the humiliation and bondage of evil, the expense of medical care or the finality of death. In Luke chapter 8 Jesus faces *all* of these fears head on. What does that have to do with our deepest fears?

1. Power over nature (Luke 8:22-25)

The wind and the waves heard in that very moment the voice of their Creator.

V25 Jesus asks them, "*Where is your faith?*" Faith is belief / trust = it always has an object it's resting in.

This strange calm brought upon the disciples a new storm that raged inside their hearts that brought out a new question: "*Who is this...?*" An appropriate question!

2. Power over forces of evil (Luke 8:26-39)

This man is described this way: 1. Had demons 2. For a long time wore no clothes 3. Lived among the tombs (caves) 4. Had been kept under guard and shackled (but would break his bonds and be driven into desert). There's a long + weary history here.

Everything about this trip is ceremonially "unclean." For centuries the Israelites were taught what would bring defilement and make them unclean. These purification practices reminded Israel of God's holiness. They also set up some practical hygienic guidelines.

The "unclean" pigs fall into the abyss of the lake; the man sits at Jesus' feet, clothed and in his right mind. = The purifying presence of Jesus! V39 "*Go home and tell them...*"

3. Power over disease and death (Luke 8:40-56)

#1 Jairus – It's his 12-year-old daughter. "*She's about to die. Time is short!*" Nothing heavier.

#2 A woman with a serious health condition (12-year battle!) spent *all her living on physicians*.

V48 With tenderness Jesus calls her "daughter"

Death is like sleep to Jesus.

V54 Jesus took her hand (touched a corpse! Unclean!) and said "*Child, arise.*"

These stories call us to faith as we wrestle with the question "*Who is this?*"

The one with *all* power and authority faced death and became sin *for us* so that *we* could experience what the demon possessed man did: freedom. So that *we* could proclaim *throughout the whole city how much Jesus has done for us*.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 8:22-39. The disciples woke Jesus up because they were afraid. What were they afraid of? How did Jesus respond and what does that tell us about him?
2. In 8:25 the disciples ask an important question. Why is it the central question of the story?
3. Describe the man found in 8:27-29. How does Jesus show his authority over the powers of darkness? What was the result?
4. The man went back to his city proclaiming how much Jesus had done for him. What has Jesus done for you? Why is it critical we share this with others? How can we grow in this?
5. Read 8:40-56. What are the similarities and differences between the two stories in these verses?
6. How are wholeness and hope seen in all three stories in 8:26-56?
7. Describe a time when you came to the end of your own resources, when you faced circumstance beyond your control. What choices did you have? What did Jesus offer you?
8. It is the purifying presence of Jesus, getting his hands dirty with the problems of the world, that we see in Luke 8. What fear, suffering or problem do *you* need Jesus to come alongside you?

Spend some time praying for one another, leaning on Jesus' power (authority) and presence. Consider what Jesus accomplished / demonstrated through his death and resurrection and how that impacts your present fear.