

THE GOOD NEWS  
ACCORDING TO

*Luke*

SECTION III

WEEKS 13-16

WEEK 13:

# THE GOSPEL AND THE DEMONIC

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:**

Luke 4:31-41, 8:26-39, 9:37-45, 10:17-20 and 11:14-26

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:**

Matthew 8:14-16, 28-34; Mark 9:14-29,  
Ephesians 6:10-20, 1 Peter 5:6-11

Humanity falls into two equal and opposite errors concerning the devil. Either they take him altogether too seriously or they do not take him seriously enough.

- C.S. Lewis

And though this world, with devils filled,  
Should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed,  
His truth to triumph through us.

- Martin Luther, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

# PERSONAL STUDY:

Would you say you *agree*, *disagree*, or *don't know* in response to the following statements?

- There is a spiritual realm. \_\_\_\_\_
- All things have a natural explanation. \_\_\_\_\_
- Demons are real and active. \_\_\_\_\_
- Demons interact with humans. \_\_\_\_\_
- We often make up spiritual explanations when we don't have a better explanation. \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever experienced anything you thought was demonic? What happened?

**Read Luke 4:33-34, 8:32 and James 2:19.** What can we learn from demons about belief in God, fear of God, and motivation for obedience? What does God want if it's not fearful, begrudging submission?

**Read Luke 10:17-20.** What does Jesus say is more important than waging war with demons to His disciples? Why is this the case? Why are people tempted to invert these?

**Read Ephesians 6:10-20.** How does Jesus protect us from demonic attack according to this passage?

## SERMON NOTES:

## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Do you think demons exist and are active today? Have you ever experienced anything you thought was demonic? How frequently do you think about demons or the spiritual realm?

**Read Luke 10:17-20.** Why does Jesus say dominion over evil and the enemy is not the point for his followers? Why is focusing on God's love for us more important than focusing on demonic powers?

**Read Ephesians 6:10-20.** What kinds of attacks and harassments are protected against by the armor Paul describes in these verses?

How should we respond if someone tells us they're interacting with something demonic? What would you do if you experienced something that could be demonic?

WEEK 14:

# SCARIER THAN DISEASE, DEATH & STORMS

## PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 7:1-17 and 8:22-25

## RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Proverbs 1:7, Psalm 56:3-4 and 62, Mark 5:34-41

It was the father of modern psychiatry, Sigmund Freud, who once espoused the theory that people invent religion out of a fear of nature. We feel helpless before an earthquake, a flood, or a ravaging disease. So, said Freud, we invent a God who has power over the earthquake, flood and disease... [Yet] In the power of Christ [the disciples] met something more frightening than they had ever met in nature... We wonder what Freud would have said about that. Why would the disciples invent a God [who] was more terrifying than the forces of nature that provoked them to invent a god in the first place? We can understand it if people invented... a god who brought only comfort. But why a god more scary than the earthquake?

- R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*

## PERSONAL STUDY:

**Read Luke 7:1-10.** Imagine the desperation this centurion has for his beloved servant. Have you ever longed for the spiritual or physical healing of a loved one? What kinds of thoughts and emotions are likely running through the centurion's mind?

**Read Luke 7:11-17.** What information does the text give us about this woman who's lost her son? What kinds of thoughts and emotions is she likely experiencing?

**Read Luke 8:22-25.** What kind of a storm would cause fear for expert fishermen? When have you been seized by fear in your life? What things about yourself and the world are you aware of in fearful situations that you might not think about otherwise?

**Read Luke 7:4 and 6.** What are the differences between the centurion's opinion of himself and the elders' opinion of him? Why is it tempting to put stock in people's opinions of us?

**Read Luke 7:16 and 8:25.** Why do the crowd and the disciples react with fear to Jesus' miraculous healing and calming the storm?

What other response do they have to Jesus?

How is Jesus' control over death, disease and storms different than our general cultural view of Jesus? In what ways have you adopted a "domesticated" view of Jesus? Why?

## SERMON NOTES:



## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

What kind of things cause fear in your life? What are different kinds of fear you've experienced?

**Read Luke 7:1-17 and 8:22-25.** All three interactions depict Jesus engaging people in painful, stressful circumstances. Why do pain and stress reveal our functional beliefs and saviors?

**Read Luke 7:16 and 8:25.** In both of these situations, people respond to Jesus with both fear and worship. What happens if people fear Jesus without worshipping Him or worship Jesus without fearing Him?

**Read Luke 8:22-25 and Mark 4:35-41.** In Mark's account he records that the disciples go from fear of the storm to great fear after Jesus calms the storm. Why is Jesus' unbridled power unsettling?

**Read Psalm 56:3-4 and 1 Peter 5:6-7.** How does fully understanding Jesus' power and the gospel alleviate stress, anxiety and fear?

WEEK 15:

# JESUS AND OUR DREAMS

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:**

Luke 7:18-35

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:**

Isaiah 6, Matthew 13:20-22, Luke 3:18-20,  
John 1:24-34, Acts 14:21-22

It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger now and then with a foregoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause and cause the spirit to waver and the soul to sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice.

- David Livingstone

If you live gladly to make others glad in God, your life will be hard, your risks will be high, and your joy will be full.

- John Piper

## PERSONAL STUDY:

What are your dreams and goals in life? How would your life play out, if it played out exactly the way you hoped?

**Read Luke 7:17-19, 3:18-20 and John 1:24-34.** Why does John the Baptist send his disciples to ask Jesus if he's the one they've been waiting for? What are his circumstances? When have circumstances caused you to question Jesus?

**Read Luke 7:20-23, Isaiah 35:4-6 and 61:1.** Which of the prophecies in Isaiah does Jesus demonstrate as confirmation for John? Which one does he leave out that would have been of personal assurance to John? What does Jesus mean when He says "Blessed is the one who is not offended by me"?

**Read Acts 14:21-22.** Paul encourages the believers that "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God." Why? What does God accomplish through our tribulations?

**Read Luke 7:24-30.** Is there any indication that John's suffering is based on something he did wrong? How does John's life contradict the false idea that if we live rightly for God our lives will go the way we want?

**Read 1 Peter 3:8-18.** What was accomplished through Jesus' pain? Is it fair that God advancing His kingdom may not include giving you the life circumstances you want or accomplishing your dreams? Why is this hard to accept?

## SERMON NOTES:

## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Have you ever doubted Jesus because He didn't help you accomplish your personal dreams or goals?

**Read Luke 7:20-23.** Jesus is always capable of fixing our painful circumstances but doesn't always choose to do so. What makes it so hard for us to wrestle with this reality?

Jesus tells John's disciples: "Blessed is the one who is not offended by me." What are the underlying beliefs in our hearts when we are offended by Jesus not fixing our circumstances?

When you are doing well or accomplishing things for Jesus do you find yourself believing that He owes you good circumstances? What does this reveal about your motives?

**Read 1 Peter 3:8-18.** How do Jesus' accomplishments on the cross inform our view of suffering? How does the gospel redeem suffering that often feels pointless?

Are there any dreams or goals God is calling you to forsake in order to free up time, energy and space to serve Him?

WEEK 16:

# UNSETTLING GRACE

**PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:**

Luke 7:36-8:3

**RELATED SCRIPTURES:**

Matthew 18:21-35, Colossians 2:6-7,

Revelation 2:1-5

In the first century, women were not even eligible to testify in a Jewish court of law. Josephus said that even the witness of multiple women was not acceptable “because of the levity and boldness of their sex.” Celsus, the second-century critic of Christianity, mocked the idea of Mary Magdalene as an alleged resurrection witness, referring to her as a “hysterical female... deluded by... sorcery.” This background matters because it points to two crucial truths. First, it is a theological reminder that the kingdom of the Messiah turns the system of the world on its head... Second, it is a powerful apologetic reminder of the historical accuracy of the resurrection accounts. If these were “cleverly devised myths”... women would never have been presented as the first eyewitnesses of the risen Christ.

- Andreas Köstenberger and Justin Taylor

## PERSONAL STUDY:

What kinds of people do you consider to be the worst kinds of people? Have you ever tried to imagine their backstories and the factors that led them down their path?

**Read Luke 7:36-8:3.** Why is it historically important that Jesus welcomed in women, ministered to women, dignified women and named some of the specific women involved in His work and mission?

What differences do you notice between how the sinful woman approaches and treats Jesus (v. 37-38) and the way the Pharisee treats Him (v. 44-46)?

What can we piece together from the text describing this woman as being “of the city,” “a sinner,” and wealthy enough to own an alabaster flask of ointment?

**Re-read Luke 7:41-50.** What is the connection that Jesus makes between forgiveness and love?

Why does the woman’s humility and gratitude translate directly to acts of love? How is a deeper and deeper understanding of the gospel the foundation for spiritual growth and formation?

**Read Matthew 18:21-35 and Luke 7:41-42.** Compare and contrast these parables. Is there anyone you need to forgive in light of Jesus’ grace toward you?

# SERMON NOTES:



## LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

Where have you personally studied or been affected by gender issues in our culture? How does Jesus' interaction with women in this text shake up the cultural norms of their day?

**Read Luke 7:36-38.** What do we know about the woman who interrupts the dinner and washes Jesus' feet? What response would Simon the Pharisee and his guests have had to her?

**Read Luke 7:39-40.** What are Simon's assumptions? Where do you deal with the most self-righteousness and judgmental attitudes toward others?

**Read Luke 7:41-47.** Where is the gospel motivating love in your life towards Jesus and others? Does the normal rhythm of your life indicate that you think you've been forgiven much or little?

How do you need us to pray for and encourage you to:

... forgive those who have sinned against you?

... grow in your love for Jesus?

... grow in your compassion and love for others?