Luke 8:22-39

Verses 22-25:

--***Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"***

Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?"

And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"

--**(22)** This particular account is mentioned in Matthew **(8:23-27)**, Mark **(4:35-41)**, and Luke. The Holy Spirit, knowing it was important enough for us to be repeated.

--The disciples get into a boat, a normal occurrence for them with Jesus, and head to the other side of the Galilee, which was approximately 13 miles long and 7 and a half wide.

--It has been well-said that there are storms of correction (Jonah) and storms of perfection (here). The disciples didn't do anything wrong. We are all in a storm or heading into/out of one.

--**(23)** ***But as they sailed He fell asleep.*** Jesus was tired! He was a real human. As humans, we need sleep. There is good sleep and bad sleep. Good sleep is needed for us to keep living the way we should. Bad sleep hinders us from living the way we should.

--In the most practical sense, Jesus' sleep was pleasing to God and showed proper stewardship of His human body. *This thought is needed in our maddening day and night pace of life!*

*Spurgeon (Lectures To My Students): *"When the mind gets fatigued and out of order, to rest it is no more idleness than sleep is idleness; and no man is called lazy for sleeping the proper time. It is far better to be industriously asleep than lazily awake."**

--Jesus' sleep was also the unique and most challenging characteristic of this storm. What happens to our faith when we are in jeopardy, and Jesus seems to be sleeping?

--Remember, not all the disciples were fishermen. But those who were fishermen were afraid, and that probably made things worse for those who were not.

--**(24)** ***And they came to and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"***

--Notice that ***they came.*** It only takes one person to wake another person. Apparently, no one wanted to wake up Jesus by themselves. It was a group effort.

--***Master, Master*** gives us a sense of frantic fear. The other gospels also give us a sense of frustration—***do you not care that we are perishing (Mk. 4:38)?***

--Jesus gets up and *rebukes* the wind and the water. ***Peace, be still! (Mk. 4:39).*** The command could also be translated *hush* or *be muzzled.*

--Everything stops, and ***there was a great calm.*** They are all standing there, dripping, looking at Jesus.
--**(25)** ***Where is your faith?*** Jesus is asking them directly, *Where was your faith <u>in this?</u>* How foolish did their fear seem now that Jesus calmed the storm so quickly and authoritatively?!
--What should our faith look like when we are in a storm with the Son of Man and Son of God? What is the point of faith at all if not for these moments?
--Notice the perfect morality and instruction of the Teacher. Jesus saves them from the storm, miraculously even, despite their weak faith (They did come to Him at least!). Yet, even in that, He rebukes their lack of faith to teach them to have faith in Him!
--***And they were afraid, and marveled. . .*** The disciples end up more afraid and awed by Jesus than the storm. That is a good place to be!
--They knew of prophets like Elijah who prayed to God and stopped rain **(James 5:17-18)**, but Jesus spoke on His own authority, and nature obeyed. Jesus was God in the flesh.
Psalm 106:7-9:** ***Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; they did not remember the multitude of Your mercies, but rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea. Nevertheless He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make His mighty power known. He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; so He led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.*
--Familiarity with Jesus Christ, faith in God, trust in His Person, allows faith to direct our lives instead of fear. Fear for self erodes trust in God. Faith pleases God.
--The disciples ask one another, ***Who can this be?***
--Do we know who He is (I am asking more than if we believe He is the Savior of the world!)? Do we trust Him? Where is our faith? Why is this so important?
1) Because there are future storms for all of us, just like there were for the disciples. And, at some point, we will all face the storm of death. Jesus will be the only One in the boat with us. The only One we can trust.
--The only reason the Son of Man and Son of God is in the boat at all, is because He cares! He is God with us because God loves us.
2) If Jesus is resting, I can also rest. *Think of Elisha Vs. servant in **2 Kings 6***
3) The boat carrying the Son of God is not going to sink! The plans and purposes of God are not drowning. *Though many Christians & ministers & ministries act like they are!*

Verses 26-31:

--***Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.***

Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss."

--**(26)** This account is also mentioned in both Matthew **(8:28-34)**, and Mark **(5:1-20)**.

--**(27)** Jesus arrives in the Gadarenes, steps ashore, and seems to barely have any time before the demoniac and his partner **(Mt. 8:28)** approach them (They are clearly still near the water as the pigs are close enough to plunge into the lake).

--The tombs were likely carved into the side of nearby stone cliffs.

--The demoniac seems to rush to confront them, but at some point in his approach, he recognizes Jesus, and everything changes.

--Luke tells us he was a man ***from the city who had demons for a long time.*** In America, cases of demonic possession are rare, but not around the world. In many other cultures, pagan gods and demonic spirits still dominate the lives and thoughts of people groups and tribes. In American culture, demonic work is different, but just as effective. *If you have to wonder if a person is demon-possessed, they are very likely not demon-possessed.*

--**(28-29)** Luke (and the other gospel writers) describe this man and his relation to society. He had demons, no clothes, no house, lived with the dead, he was fierce, screamed loudly, broke all bonds, and gashed his own flesh.

--The Greek word for ***driven (29)*** is *elauno,* which means *to push as with oars/row*. It is used twice of the disciples rowing in **Mt. 6:48+Jn. 6:19**. *This is what Satan would drive all men to if he could have his way!*

--Society is helpless to deliver or bind.

--Contrast how the demoniac interacts with society and with Jesus. The demoniac falls at Jesus' feet, cries, and begs. The demons bow before Jesus, fearing torment!

*Davis (Luke 1-13, pg. 144): *"The terror is the demon's, the comfort is ours. . . The terror of the demons is the hope of the church."**

--There is no question how this conflict will play out. Interestingly enough, the demons answer the disciples' previous question: ***Who can this be (25)?. . . You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God (28).***

--The disciples feared because they didn't know the answer, the demons feared because they did!
--Also, it is worth noting that the demons didn't know what was going to happen to them. Supernatural beings are intelligent, but not all-knowing.
--**(30-31)** Apparently, the demoniac crumbled before Jesus when He commanded the demons to leave. It seems like the abyss was the default location intended by the authority of Jesus' command.
--The Greek word for ***abyss*** is *abyssos* and is most often translated *bottomless pit* in Revelation. It is where Satan is ultimately bound and cast during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ **(Rev. 20:1+3)**. It is probable that all demonic spirits are also bound with Satan there at that time, but it seems that some are imprisoned beforehand as well.
--Jesus asks the man his name. I believe Jesus does so that we could see the horrible inward plight of the man, which was even worse than his tragic outward condition.
--Beautifully, no matter what the outward looks like, Jesus sees the tortured soul beyond. He sees men and women driven by sin and Satan. *No one is too far!*

Verses 32-33:
--***Now a heard of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.***
--There are a number of questions here we do not have answers to.
--Where did the demons end up? Were the pigs simply on the way to the abyss?
--Why would the demons want to inhabit the swine?
--Why would Jesus allow it? I believe, as a witness to the truth of the supernatural for the demoniacs, the disciples, the townsfolk, and us!
--This is what the demons would have loved to do with the man—with us. But one human soul is of more value than many pigs.
--Jesus has complete authority over all storms and all demonic powers. That is still important for all Christians to remember, even here in America.
Colossians 1:13:** ***He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*

Verses 34-37:

--***When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.***

--Again, Jesus has His own means of promotion. The swine herders go and tell everyone what they saw. *Think the seven sons of Sceva **(Acts 19:11-17)***

--What is the condition of the man with Jesus? Free, clothed, in his right mind, with people, with Jesus. That is how God would have us, and anything closer to: bound, naked, deceived, alone, and far from God is of Satan.

--How do the people respond? With fear! ***And they were afraid. . . for they were seized with great fear.***

--Again, we see the conflict between faith and fear. When Jesus' character is not recognized, His power is terrifying.

--What is their response? The same as the demons! They want Jesus to leave them alone and go away! Faith or fear will determine whether we want Jesus near or far.

--Sadly, Jesus will leave if we want Him to. Jesus rejected the demoniac's request to leave him alone because there was no free will in it, but He accepts the willful request of the multitude.

--The story would seem strange if men didn't still reject Jesus all the time for swine—their career. They also reject Him when He makes Himself known. They keep active distance from God because they fear His power and authority.

Verses 38-39:

--***Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.***

--A man from the city returns to the city.

--Again, Jesus does something we don't expect. He refuses the freed man's request to stay with Him. Jesus always treated people as individuals—He asked the rich young ruler to follow Him **(Mk. 10:21)**; He told the cleansed leper to go and tell no one **(Mk. 1:44)**; He will tell another man not to go home and bury His father but to follow Him right then and there **(Lk. 9:59)**; and here He tells this man to go home and tell everyone!

--What does this teach us? A servant of Jesus Christ doesn't just serve, they do what they are told. We cannot only serve God in the ways and conditions that *we* want to serve God, or we are really serving ourselves. He knows what part of the field is best for us to work in.
--Jesus was rejected, but He did not leave Himself without a witness. He was content in how God would be glorified in this man's witness! If you were really messed up, don't be ashamed to glorify God by telling people how Jesus Christ changed you! *Our testimonies are powerful and cannot be "debunked" by unbelievers!*
Acts 26:17-18:** ***I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'*
--The city boy comes home and isn't afraid to tell anyone and everyone ***what great things Jesus had done for him!***