

Come Follow Me
Elo Viz production
Week 13
Matt 13, Luke 8,13

In Luke eight there are two incredible stories that teach the same principle, I'd like to review them today. First starting in verse 22:

22 ¶ Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he [Jesus] went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

23 But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; **and** they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy.

24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the **winds** and water, and they obey him.” (Luke 8:22-25)

First off; this was not the first miracle that the disciples had seen Jesus do. They witnessed him heal all sorts of ailments, turn water to wine, even raise a girl from the dead. But, this one was different; why? Because they thought they were going to die. It was common on the sea of Galilee for random sudden storms to appear, and most of these men were great fishermen that had a lot of experience with sailing and storms. But they forgot two things; who they were with and what He said. In His opening instruction He said: “Let us go over unto the other side of the lake”. If He said it, it would be so. So why did the disciple worry? Perhaps they truly didn't know Him or trust Him yet. “What manner of man is this!” they exclaimed. Who is this guy that even the winds and the water obey Him. Two things that I find interesting, first; Did you notice that it was the winds and the water that he calmed? Why not just the wind? On the waters it is the wind that causes the waves. If He were to just calm the wind, the waves would have continued. It was incredible that He was able to command the wind to instantly stop, but the waters as well. To have these massive waves so large that they were afraid for their lives to instantly drop to a perfect calm. No one had ever seen that before. And Jesus' response; “Where is your faith?” I told you we were going over and you didn't believe me? Where is your faith? That is an excellent question. God has made us many promises, do we believe Him?

One of the most fascinating things about this account to me is that up to this point the disciples have spent quite a bit of time with Jesus, they have seen Him do many miracles and teach incredible things. But I believe they truly didn't grasp the magnitude or the completeness of God standing before them in the flesh. In Luke we find out that as soon as they land on the

other side of the lake they are confronted by a man with a lot of issues the account says:

“27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, (Mark tells us he ran to Jesus and worshiped him; [Mark 5:6]) and [he] wore no clothes, neither abode in *any* house, but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, *Jesus, thou* Son of God [of] most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, *Legion*: because many devils were entered into him.

31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the *deep*. [another translation; the abyss]

32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.” (Luke 8:27-33)

First off there is a huge difference between this man and the disciples. But, it probably is not what you think. As we say before the disciples didn't really know Jesus yet, this man or at least the devils inside him recognized who Jesus was immediately. Running to Him and worshipping Him. calling out; “what have I to do with thee Jesus, thou son of God of the most high”. How is it that someone so possessed, so low, could see what His disciples who spent so much time with Him could not?

I believe that most of us laugh at this story or at least feel sorry for this man. What a strange thing to live in a graveyard...naked, Mark tells us; “day and night he was crying and cutting himself (Mark 5:5). Chains couldn't hold him, fetters which were shackles they would put on his wrists and feet he would break them. We look at this man and think he is some sort of medical case and he should be locked up away from society, or put in a home where someone can watch over him. Some think counseling would be the answer to help this man, or even a hospital. Let's drug him, they say. All in the city were afraid of him and Mark tells us that none could tame him. (Mark 5:4)

But, if we look carefully this man is just like you and me. He is not so different from those things that we struggle with every day. This man called Legion is a metaphor for our lives. Look carefully:

-He has no clothes and no house: This is a symbol of the poor, not just monetarily but spiritually. Those that have an absence of the spirit in their lives. Who are not clothed with the Holy robes of righteousness who have no place to go whether that is a church or a temple or the

safety of God presents in their lives. We all go through those times in our lives feeling like we don't have a safe place to go.

-Second; he lives among the tombs; He was alienated, he was alone.

-He is bound with chains and fetters that he tears asunder and breaks them. These are a symbol of rules or law that we feel control our lives and we rebel against them and disregard their purpose in our lives.

-He was driven by the devil into the wilderness (Luke 8:29); the wilderness is a place of isolation, uninhabited, uncultivated area, where we feel vulnerable, in danger, there is a lack of food, shelter, and safety. Most who are driven into the wilderness experience fear. There is probably no need to outline how that translates into our own lives. Most of us experience fear and vulnerability everyday.

-And it wasn't just one devil it was multiple devils; A legion by definition at least to the ancient armies about 3000-6000, a vast host of warriors. There to cast destruction on their enemy. We all have an addict inside of us; someone who is addicted to one or many things that the world produces to keep us bound and captive by the adversary. A legion may seem like a lot to us but I'm sure if we started to make a list of all the things we are addicted to, all the substances and behaviors, thoughts and feelings. We might be shocked to find our list is just as long as legion's.

-Lastly, he was cutting himself with stones; the harm that we do to our bodies I'm sure is appalling to God. especially today with our "body art", the media we watch, the food we consume. In January I tried a new thing, I went a whole month without eating any gluten or sugar. 31 days. It was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. It seems like gluten or sugar is in everything. After just a few days I could feel the difference in my energy, in my mind, I could think more clearly. It was amazing. But the worst part was after that month trying some of that food again. I drank a soda and I thought I was going to die. It was incredible to me to see how what we consume really takes a toll on our body and how we feel.

When we look at Legion this way we are not so different from him. But notice what the answer was for Him to have peace in his life. It wasn't a doctor, or a therapist. He needed Jesus; just as we all do. After Jesus healed him he actually wanted to follow Jesus and become one of His disciples. But, he had a greater work to do. He became a missionary spreading the good news of Jesus everywhere he went.

One last point I would like to make. When the disciples were on the ship and the storm came it said that they were afraid, so much so that they thought they were going to die. In the account of Mark after he calms the wind and the water it says: "they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41)

So they went from being scared of the elements to being exceedingly afraid of the Master of the elements.

Same thing happened with Legion, they were scared of him. But after he was healed and they saw him sitting clothed and in his right mind it says they were afraid. They even asked Jesus to leave. Some believe it was because all their pigs are now dead and they were upset. But That is not what the record says. They prayed to Him to depart out of their coast.

This is a common reaction when someone comes in contact with the living, all powerful creator of this universe. It was the brother of Jared's reaction when he saw the finger of God. The account says: "The brother of Jared fell down before the Lord, for he was struck with fear." (Ether 3:6) Moses on the mountain. I believe that this would be a natural reaction when we come face to face with God. Perhaps it should be the only time that we should experience that. I say that because many times Jesus has told us to "fear not". It has been said that you can't have faith and fear at the same time. This has been proven to be true with many of the accounts we have of the life of the Savior. When they are afraid Jesus says: Where is your faith? When Peter walks on the water and it says he saw the waves and swells around him he began to sink into the sea because he feared. When Jesus rescues him and pulls him back up to the surface He says: Oh, thou of little faith. Wherefore didst thou doubt.

My point to this is that no matter what the world throws at us. Whether it is a tragedy, or a trial, an addiction or a test Jesus has always said to us: Fear not, only believe, have faith in Him, trust him. John 16 records Jesus explaining the plan, he has for each of us:

"In the [world](#) ye shall have [tribulation](#):" (John 16:33)

Of course this is part of His plan. We all knew this was the plan before we agreed to come down to the earth and have this mortal experience. There will be tribulations. However, please notice the second part of this:

"In the [world](#) ye shall have [tribulation](#): but be of good [cheer](#); I have [overcome](#) the world." (John 16:33)

No matter what we are going through Jesus has the power to calm the sea, to cast out devils, to heal our ailments. Take it from someone who has had many addictions, a history of wrong thoughts, bound by the chains of pride. And I have seen the healing powers of God, I have felt the majesty of His grace and the warmth of His forgiving embrace. What every trial you are going through I promise you, you can find peace. What every sin you are carrying, I promise, that burden can be lifted. I testify that He stands ready and willing to help you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.