

Apr 17, 2016



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks
Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Jesus specializes in restoration

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
Praise, my soul, the King of
heaven, To His feet thy tribute
bring; Ransomed, healed, re-
stored, forgiven, Evermore His
praises sing. —Lyte

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
*and have put on the new man who is re-
newed in knowledge according to the image of
Him who created him*
(Col 3:10 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", June 23, 2014)

Series: The Gift of Faith

UNIT: Restorative Faith

NEXT WEEK

Reconciling Faith
(Luke 15:11-24)

Recovered Faith

Luke 8:26-36

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reviews the humble sincerity of **Saving Faith**. The **study's aim** is to learn a fresh grasp of our sinfulness and God's grace. The **study's application** is to put our faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and to show acts of love for and to Him.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The day had begun with our Lord teaching the crowds from on board a boat (perhaps that one belonging to one of the fishermen of the disciples), anchored along the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. The use of the boat was not new (cf. Luke 5:3), but our Lord's method of teaching by means of parables was (Luke 8:3ff.). Here, Luke records only the parable of the soils (8:3-18). At the end of His teaching that day, Jesus had His disciples set out for the other side of the lake (cf. Mark 4:33-36). On the journey across the lake, a great storm arose, which threatened the boat and its passengers. After Jesus had stilled the storm, the boat continued on to the other side of the lake. It is here that our story picks up. It is as Jesus steps out of the boat to the shore that the demoniac appears. The disciples' hearts were still pounding from the scare they had experienced due to the storm. Their pulse rate was perhaps at last returning to normal. Now, as their boat glided gently up onto the solid ground of the shore, the disciples must have breathed a sigh of relief. I can almost hear one of the disciples sigh, under his breath, "Safe, at last!" What could happen to them now, after their safe landing? The solitude of the lonely shore was probably a welcome scene, after the crowds which had gathered along the other shore. No one probably gave a thought as to why no people were around, or why the road, which led to the nearby town, was empty. The boat landed in sight of a road, which would lead into the town nearby. There, on the hill, was a cemetery of sorts, although I have the feeling another one may have been in greater use. Neither the road nor the cemetery were being used, however, for one reason: two demoniacs dwelt nearby, and no one felt safe to pass by, anywhere where they might be accosted by them (Matthew 8:28). While these men had once lived normal lives in the nearby town (cf. Luke 8:27), they now lived more like animals. The men were demon-possessed, and so they were will and dangerous. When Jesus commanded the demons to come out of one of these men, whose demonized name was Legion, the demons began to speak through the man. It is very important to take note of the fact that although the demoniac fell at Jesus' feet, it was not an act of worship, as it would later be, when the demons were cast from the man. The demons did recognize Jesus' identity, and they also acknowledged His superiority, His authority over them. They recognized, for example, that He could do with them as He pleased. Their petitions were addressed as those of inferior beings to One who was infinitely superior to them. If I were to characterize the response of the demonized man to Jesus, and thus the response of demons to the Son of God, there is one word which would best summarize their reaction to Him—FEAR.

(Adapted from Commentary from Bob Deffinbaugh)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

FAITH BOUND (LUKE 8:26-29)

Bound by demonic influences (26-27)

Demonic influences that come to us through temptations (Matt 26:41)

Demonic influences that are part of Satan's schemes (2 Cor 2:11)

Demonic influences that come from Satan's prowling (1 Peter 5:8)

Demonic influences that are part of Satan's trap (Luke 21:34)

Bound from righteousness (28)

Bound from righteousness by weak principles (Gal 4:9)

Bound from righteousness by evil associations (Prov 6:27-28)

Bound from righteousness by over self-confidence (Judg 16:20)

Bound from righteousness by relying on anything other than God (Isa 31:1)

Bounds not easily broken (29)

Not easily broken because of the need for powerful prayer (Mark 9:28-29)

Not easily broken because of the hold on the individual (Luke 9:39)

Not easily broken because of being a captive of Satan (2 Tim 2:25-26)

Not easily broken because of weak spiritual power (Acts 19:15-16)

FAITH FREED (LUKE 8:30-33)

Freed by God's control (30-31)

Control of all destiny (Ps 135:6-7)

Control of all creation (Amos 4:13)

Control over Satan's influence over man (Job 1:10)

Freed from destruction (32-33)

Freed from destruction through God's patience (1 Peter 3:18-21)

Freed from destruction through God's gathering (Jer 23:3)

Freed from destruction because of seeking God (Acts 15:16-17)

Freed from destruction through being chosen by grace (Rom 11:5)

FAITH WITNESSED (LUKE 8:34-36)

Witness of restoration (34-35)

A restoration from wandering from the truth (James 5:19-20)

A restoration from sin (1 John 5:16)

A restoration from doubting (Jude 22-23)

A restoration from idleness and weakness (1 Thess 5:14)

Witness of God's power (36)

God's power that performs miracles (Ps 77:14)

God's power that provides strength to do all things (Phil 4:13)

God's power through His grace (2 Cor 12:9-10)

God's power that provides endurance and patience (Col 1:11)