# Bible Study 65

February 8, 2023

 Gospel of Luke (continued)

Last week we read how Jesus taught his disciples using parables. In Luke 8:5 he tells the story of the Farmer Sowing his seed and then goes further to explain it in some detail. The story is about Faith and what we do with that precious gift of the ‘Word of God.’ In retrospect we can look back and see the times Faith was strongest in our lives.

Many a schoolteacher will tell of Past Students returning to say how something they said stayed with them and had an enormous impact on their lives. For many teachers they have no recollection of making any such statements. The Gospel word may well work in a similar way. We never know just where and when it will take root.

Luke 8:22 tells the story of the Storm at Sea. It is really a continuation of the story of the Sower in as much as it is about faith. Faith is easy. Keeping it in difficult circumstances is difficult. Scholars will insist that this passage reflects a time of persecution in the Early Church. However, I think it is more generic than that. This is a story that can apply to all our lives. We each have storms, difficulties, and times when we need that faith to see us through.

Luke 8:26 Jesus meets a man possessed by a demon. This is not the first time that this happens in Jesus’ ministry. The demon has fore-knowledge of Jesus’ identity. He calls Jesus: “Son of the Most High.” This is important because the Scribes and Pharisees constantly accuse Jesus of being possessed by a demon. In commanding the demons to leave they go into a herd of pigs who blunge into the lake and are drowned.

The story tells that Jesus had power over evil and spirits. The Pig herders return to find the man sitting at Jesus’ feet sound in mind and dressed. Perhaps Jesus could and did cure mental illness, but we know that possession exists today and why not then?

Whether there is some hidden argument here about Jews and Gentiles is hard to say. Pigs were considered unclean by Hebrews as were the Gentiles.

The next miracle appears in 8: 40 when Jesus cures Jairus’ daughter. Notice the

detail in the story. He works in the Synagogue; she is twelve; and dying; Now

Luke adds a story within a story of the Woman with the Bleeding complain touching the hem of Jesus’ garment and being cured.

Immediately there is dialogue: “Who touched me?” It poses the question who is witnessing this event? More than likely, it is not Luke. So, who is telling him this story and in so much detail? Note that Jesus says that he felt the power go out from him. This happens several times in the Gospel.

“Daughter your Faith has saved you!” It is a line that Luke uses several times. Perhaps it was important after the first fifty years of Christianity to re-affirm Faith in difficult times.

The story then reverts to Jairus and his daughter. He reassures Jairus after hearing that the girl is dead. “Don’t be afraid. Just believe, and she will be healed.” Again, there is this recourse to faith.

More detail and Peter, James and John are the only ones allowed into the house. As the people wail Jesus tells them: “Stop, she is only sleeping.” And they laugh at him. He takes her by the hand and says” “Little girl get up.” Her spirit returned and at once she stood up.

It is a wonderful and inspiring story, well witnessed and recorded.

Read Chapter 8