

- Group II** Are “on the rock” with no soil at all. Their lives are so shallow that the Word has **NO** chance to penetrate them.
- Group III** Are good people, sincere, but **the thorns** of “**the worries, riches and pleasures of life**” choke the Word – No Fruit
- Group IV** Are the generous, who internalise God’s Word and **also** persevere in trying to **live** it
- we must bring forth **Fruit**

Jesus’ True Family: Lk 8:19-21

Finally, Who **are** these true disciples of Jesus?
Who are **his** ‘family’? “**Those who HEAR THE WORD of God AND put it into practice**”
→ this applies to everyone, from his Mother, his greatest disciple - to me (his least disciple)

JESUS’ IDENTITY and His Mission to the Gentiles: 8:22-39

Luke gives us a marvellous answer to the question: “**who is this Jesus of Nazareth?**”

- | | | |
|-------|--|---------|
| (i) | He is Lord of Creation | 8:22-25 |
| (ii) | He is Lord over the demonic sphere | 8:26-39 |
| (iii) | He is Lord over the sphere of the dead | 8:40-56 |

The Storm at Sea: (8:22-25)

Here Jesus crossed from the Jewish to the Gentile territories, thus **prophetically forecasting** the journey of the Church from the Jewish world to that of the Gentiles...

Jesus’ sleep in the boat points to the early Christians who felt abandoned by Jesus now that he was ‘asleep’ in Heaven!

Jesus rebuked his disciples for their fear-full faith! They should have known who he was!

Cf. **Boat scenes in the Gospel** - prophetic pictures of the Church on Mission

- Luke **uses** this event **in a different way** to Matthew and Mark.
- Sea of Galilee is a metaphor for the ‘Sea of Life’
- The boat represents the Church which travels that stormy sea through the night of History
- Jesus’ sleep represents his silent presence in the Tabernacle. He **is** with us, but we seem to think that he has left us to ourselves and that we are – **in fact** – alone, facing persecution and opposition from the world.
- When the disciples call upon Jesus in prayer, he immediately manifests His **Presence** and **Power**. He rebukes the opposition and calms the storm.
→ this leaves the disciples awestruck and facing the Mystery of the **Person** of Jesus
... Ask and you shall receive: Lk 11:9

Ⓝ It is obvious that if the disciples of Jesus **knew who he was** they would never **panic** when the storms of persecution break out.

Spiritual Life → Jesus also calms the storms of temptation and passion when we call upon Him
Cf. Rom 8:38-39: **nothing** can separate us from Christ!

- Disciples need to **live** in faith and trust.

Gentile Mission: Luke places the events of chap 8 in the context of **the Mission to the Gentiles**.

The preaching was done in towns and villages (8:1) reflecting the situation in Luke's communities where the Church had left the Synagogue. Cf. Acts 15

- The sea crossing reflects the stormy journey of the Church from the Jewish to the Gentile world which was **frequently** marked by persecution **and** by **internal** turmoil in the community Cf. Acts 6:8 → 8:3, 4; 9:1-2; 11:19-26)
- Jesus has ascended to Heaven after his dreadful martyrdom and is present **SPIRITUALLY** (sleep!) with the Church (24:51)
- Often the Church feels as if **"it is going down"!!**
→ Christians are told to keep their prayer-life alive!

Some lessons to learn:

- a) Only God can control the sea: Cf. Psalm 104: 6-7
- b) He has done this before! Cf. Psalm 107: 25-32
- c) Jesus (God) is on our side: Rom 8:31-32, 38-39
- d) We must trust him **beyond reason!**
- e) Prayer engages his attention to help us
- f) **He alone can save the boat, the leaders, and the people. He is the only Saviour!**
- g) He will calm the storms in our private lives also
- h) **Jesus is LORD over all creation, all creatures and all situations.**

The Gentile Mission:

The Gentile world had been governed by demonic 'gods' – referred to as **IDOLS in OT** – since the rebellion at the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9

Having shown His Mastery over creation and the elements, Jesus now demonstrates his Mastery over the **unseen world of the demonic powers** who work for the destruction of Humanity.

We have witnessed the sea obey Jesus, but **it more electrifying to see the demons obey** – Even **a legion of demons** could not resist the power of the Son of Man! Cf. Col 1: 15-20; Eph. 2:11-22
Jesus is the Saviour of the Gentiles ... as he is the Saviour of the Jews

NB: Not only must he free the people; **the land itself is polluted and must be cleansed!**

So, in one move, Jesus **cleansed the land** of unclean spirits **and** unclean animals!

This was the necessary preparation for **the Holy Spirit** to indwell the people in the K.O.G.

Vs 35: The result of Jesus' action was that the exorcised and freed man was found

"sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his full senses..."

This is the place of a true disciple! Cf. Luke 8 :38; 10:39; Acts 22:3; Cf. Prodigal son: Lk 15:11-32

Here is the picture of the future Gentile converts – a perfect work of God

The final cleansing will be on Calvary, when Jesus takes on the demon in final victory

The Gerasene Demoniac: (8:26-39)

This miracle occurs in the country of Gerasenes which is opposite the Lake of Galilee (8:26)

- A possessed man - lived in tombs (spiritual death)
- wore no clothes (spiritual nakedness – no salvation)
- this man represents **the moral depravity** of the Gentile world
... its uncleanness, spiritual chaos and lostness.
- This man is a lost soul unless the Saviour saves him.
- The devil had told Jesus that he was **“the prince of this world”** Cf. Jn 12:31
→ he had offered **Jesus** power **in his regions...** the Gentile world: Lk 4:6-8
- Here Jesus **comes into Satan’s territory** and snatches one of Satan’s victims from him, thus fulfilling Isaiah 49:24-26
- God the Father promised through Isaiah that he would fight the Enemy and deliver his captives: Jesus does this now.
Cf. Parable of The Strong Man in Lk 11:21-22; Mt 12:29 and Mk 3:27

8:28 Satan recognises his Victor /Conqueror: **“I implore you not to torture me”**

These are the words of one who **knows** that **Jesus’ Word** will consign him to the Abyss now (in the lake) and forever in Hell, **when Jesus has been proclaimed Lord by the whole of creation.** Phil 2:4-11

8:29 Terrible, destructive power held the man captive – a picture of hell on earth

8:30 Jesus took control by demanding the unclean spirit to identify itself – once devils have to **come out into THE LIGHT** they are exposed in their true, destructive form, they can no longer deceive.

“Legion” means a multitude - all hell was inside this man!

- the Kingdom of darkness ruled his life. **He was a stronghold of Evil.**
- No love, joy or peace - the exact opposite of the Kingdom of God.

8:31 The demons don’t **want** to go to the **“ABYSS”**, which is their final destiny.
They get **temporary relief** by living inside of human beings!

Yet it is Jesus’ **Mission** to conquer the demons **and to send them ultimately to the ABYSS**

8:32-33 Pigs were unclean animals to the Jews Cf. Lev 11:7

Pigs were, therefore, a more fitting habitation for the **unclean spirits** than a man made in the image and likeness of God!

A man who was made for the glory of God experiences the infernal terrors of hell instead! **What tragedy!**

The pigs could not endure these tormenting spirits and ran downhill into the lake and drowned.

This means that

- (i) Jesus cleansed the area of the unclean animals
- (ii) “ “ “ “ “ “ “ spirits, who had to go to the abyss anyway!

- Jesus’ victory over evil was complete!



Vs 37: The swineherds spread the news – the people gathered

The people's response was **panic** - fear before the naked Power of God in Jesus (**DUNAMIS**)
The Gentiles will come to fear the "**Son of the Most High**" in the true sense, after Calvary

Right now, they are upset at the loss of the pigs! - **loss of income!**
They don't know the value of the pearl of Great price yet Cf. Mt 13: 45-46
What is the worth of a man's redemption? Is he **worth** a large herd of pigs?

The Man This Gentile is **the first whose weeping is now blessed** (6:21)
This Gentile is the first **to ask to become a disciple** (8:39)
This Gentile is the first **of millions of prodigals** to recover and return to the
Father's House because of Jesus' Love.

The People asked Jesus **to leave** their territory... and **he did!**

Result?

- Now they have no demons, no demoniac, no pigs **and NO SAVIOUR!**
- they are in grave spiritual danger! **They are the empty house**
Cf. Mt 12:43-45 Lk 11:24-26

Final Scene:

- The rejected Saviour sends a **Missionary** to the Gentiles to help them understand: (8:38-39)
- **this man becomes the first Gentile Missionary!** cf. Is 48:10-12
- All he has to proclaim is "**Amazing Grace...**"

THE JEWISH MISSION: (8:40-56)

Having been rejected by the Gentiles, Jesus returned to Jewish territory to continue his mission there.

Chapter 8 begins and ends with Jewish women whom Jesus healed of various ailments (8:1-3) and (8:40-56)

Here two women represent Israel's condition before God:

- a) An older woman, sick for 12 years, has tried everything and "**spent all she had on doctors but no one could cure her**" Mt 5:26
- b) A 12-year old girl about to die. Her father is an official of the Synagogue and is helpless. Jesus will raise her from the dead even if the Elders – here represented by the parents – do not believe or cooperate.
- c) **Notice the 12:** it represents Israel and it's 12 tribes

In **both** of these stories – which the Synoptics all combine into one – we are told that:

- a) Israel's troubles cannot be healed until she comes humbly to her Saviour and puts her faith and trust in him.
 - b) Israel is so sick, spiritually, that she is close to death, but there is no need to despair **because her Saviour is here.**
 - He can raise the dead, both physically and spiritually Cf. Jn 5:25-29
- 1) The woman with the haemorrhage is **unclean** according to Lev 15:19-27
 - if she touches Jesus, he incurs uncleanness according to the Law
 - 2) To touch a dead body incurs uncleanness