



Good News **for all people.**

The Gospel of Luke

Week 7 Discussion Questions

Week of 10/9/22

Text: Luke 8:4-15 (Thornton) and Luke 8:22-39 (Erie and Boulder)

Thornton Questions

Icebreaker: If you're familiar with Jesus's parables, which is one of your favorites?

1. What advantage do you think a parable could have over a more direct form of teaching? What does Jesus say about his purpose for them in verses 9-10?

Application: What do you find more compelling—a story that illustrates a truth or a more clearly packaged piece of information? Why do you think that is?

2. Jesus explains three different scenarios where the seed does not settle into good soil. How would you summarize these?

Application: Which of these scenarios seems closest to what you've witnessed in others' lives? Explain.

3. Jesus offsets three types of "bad" soil with just one that's "good." What does that suggest about the reasons some do not come to faith?

Application: Do you think the parable sufficiently covers every kind of response to the gospel? Why?

4. The "good" soil depicts "those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience." From what you know about Scripture, what do you think Jesus has in mind for someone to "bear fruit with patience"?

Application: Where or in what way do you see this kind of fruit in your own life?

5. *Application:* Jesus told his disciples in verse 10, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God..." What does that imply for us as we get to read those same words he originally expressed to the disciples?

Erie and Boulder Questions

Icebreaker: When have you been most afraid? What happened?

1. Whose idea was it to cross the lake? From what we can tell of who the passengers included, which of them would we expect to be most comfortable with rough seas?

Application: What does this imply about the kind of expectations we should set as we too “step into the boat with Jesus”?

2. In verse 25, after the calm Jesus rebukes the disciples with the question, “Where is your faith?” Why are they, in-turn, “afraid” after the danger has gone away?

Application: Have you ever had an experience where you’ve cried out to Jesus with this kind of desperation? If so, what happened?

3. What can we observe about the demons’ impact on the man Jesus and his companions encountered on the other side of the lake?

Application: From his interaction with Jesus in verses 27-33, why can we be confident of our protection from the demonic as we follow Jesus?

4. Verses 35 and 37 tell us that the people of the region of the Gerasenes were fearful once they saw what Jesus had done. How would you compare their fear with that of the disciples back in verse 25?

Application: Do you have any experience with someone reacting in “fear” to God—either in a positive or a negative sense? What happened?

5. Jesus told the man to return home. Why do you think Jesus might have done this instead of having him travel back across the lake to Galilee?

Application: What can we learn from this about what the course of our lives could look like as we follow Jesus?