

Don't Be Afraid—Just Believe!

Luke 8:22 – 9:17

- I. **Don't be afraid; just believe...when you are in a furious storm (Luke 8:22-25).**
 - A. Jesus is always looking for faith, and fear is the thief trying to steal it (Luke 8:25; Hebrews 11:6).
 - B. The opposite of fear is "...a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline" (II Timothy 1:7) Self-discipline means "sound reasoning according to God's definition," Helps Word Studies
 - C. "He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters..." (Luke 8:24, Ephesians 6:10-13).
 - D. "'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples'" (Luke 8:25). Jesus was testing the disciples (and He tests us). "The crucible for silver, and the furnace for gold; but the Lord tests the heart" (Proverbs 17:3).

- II. **Don't be afraid; just believe...when the supernatural power of Jesus scares or confuses you (Luke 8:26-39).** Even when we are oppressed, we know we are never far from God's deliverance. He works justice for us (Psalm 103:6; Isaiah 61:1-3).
 - A. The people were probably afraid that Jesus was some kind of "prince of demons" (Luke 8:37; 11:14-16).
 - B. If there is good fruit, keep your heart open and ask God for wisdom and confirmation for things of the Spirit that are new to you (Luke 11:17-20).

- III. **Don't be afraid; just believe...when you feel completely unworthy to approach God (Luke 8:40-48).**
 - A. By touching Jesus, the woman actually made Jesus "ceremonially unclean" according to Jewish law (Lev. 15:25-27).
 - B. This is a beautiful story of how faith in Jesus fulfills the law and releases the love and power of God. "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace" (Luke 8:48).

- IV. **Don't be afraid; just believe...even when it seems the past cannot be fixed (Luke 8:49-56).**
 - A. What was going on in the mind of Jairus?
 - B. The wrong response to the barrenness of the past (Zechariah—Luke 1:18-20).
 - C. The right response -Mary, Mother of Jesus (Luke 1:34-38). Faith has a spiritual sound to it (Luke 1:39-45).
 - D. "Everything is possible for one who believes" (Mark 9:21-25).

- V. **Don't be afraid; just believe...even when there doesn't appear to be enough (Luke 9:12-17).**
 - A. Your Father in heaven releases more than enough (Luke 9:17).
 - B. Releasing the Kingdom usually involves overcoming inadequacy. Jesus set it up that way (Luke 9:1-5; II Corinthians 12:9-10).
 - C. Miracles can take us forward in the Lord or away from the Lord, depending on our response (Mark 8:14-21).

*Mike Hudgins
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