

**Sun., March 13**

Memory Verse: “‘Daughter, your faith has healed you,’ Jesus said. ‘Go in peace.’” Luke 8:48

Reading of Scripture: *Read during the message*

Message: Luke 3 Miracle 4: “Demons & Death”

Text: Luke 8:50 “When Jesus heard this, He responded, ‘Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed.’”

Scripture: Luke 8:26-56; Reader: Lily Betker

Blurb: The last half of Luke 8 is about Jesus facing demons and death. These are perhaps the scariest powers we face in this life. Jesus shows up, speaks life, and both are easily defeated. We face powers and death every day, in a thousand ways. But when we keep our trust in Jesus, we are restored and go in God’s peace. That’s the Gospel!

**[Recorded Worship Beginning]**

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“‘Daughter, your faith has healed you,’ Jesus said. ‘Go in peace.’” Luke 8:48

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Prerecording

*Death Was Arrested*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Live Worship Beginning]**

**GATHERING SONG:** *It Is Finished* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“‘Daughter, your faith has healed you,’ Jesus said. ‘Go in peace.’” Luke 8:48

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Lift High the Name of Jesus*

*When Jesus the Healer Passed through Galilee*

*Surrounded (Fight My Battles)*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

*[Both Recorded & Live Worship]*

APOSTLES CREED -Pastor David

PRAYERS: St. Patrick's Breastplate -Pastor David

Leader: We join in the prayer of our Celtic forebears, putting our trust in the Holy Trinity.

**All: I arise today  
through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
through belief in the Threeness,  
through confession of the Oneness  
of the Creator of creation.**

Leader: I arise today  
through the strength of Christ's birth and his baptism,  
through the strength of his crucifixion and his burial,  
through the strength of his resurrection and his ascension,  
through the strength of his descent for the judgment of doom.

**All: I arise today, through  
God's strength to pilot me,  
God's power to sustain me,  
God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me,  
God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me,  
God's hand to guard me,  
God's path to go before me,  
God's shield to protect me,  
God's host to save me.**

Leader: Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I sit down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

**All: I arise today  
through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,  
through belief in the Threeness,  
through confession of the Oneness**

**of the Creator of creation.  
Amen.**

**SERVE MOMENT:** Rev. John C. Blackford Red Rock Scholarship Fund Offering -Pastor Cassi

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE** -Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE: Luke 3 Miracle (Luke 7-9) 4: “Demons & Death” (Reader: Lily Betker)**

**PP#1:** Miracle: “Demons & Death”

“When Jesus heard this, He responded, ‘Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed.’ -Luke 8:50

“Miracle: Demons and Death.” Luke 8:50 “When Jesus heard this, He responded, ‘Don’t be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed.’”

**PP#2:** *Image of Jesus’ disciples struggling to understand Him or make sense of what He is doing.*

I want to do something different with you today. Normally, as your preacher, I try to open the Scripture reading in a way that helps you understand it and apply it to your life. I try to highlight a key point or two (okay, three...or so!) and connect it together. But this week I really found myself with lot of thoughts and questions and reactions to what we are reading in Luke together. Now, this is the healthy reaction Jesus’ disciples have to following Him. So, this week I want to simply be a fellow disciple and share some of my personal reflections, reactions and questions. I hope this opens your own discernment and helps you engage Jesus in your way.

And this may be more of what being a disciple is really all about. All of us, after all, are trying to figure out who Jesus is, what it means to follow Him, and how we are going live for Him.

So, I’ve kept the scripture reading until now, because today I’m going to dialogue with Luke’s telling of these stories. We’ll hear what Luke says Jesus does—I’ve asked Lily to read the verses from Luke—and then I’ll intersperse some of my reactions. You may not go home with everything sorted, but I hope we will take one step further along in our following of Jesus together.

Okay, so you ready to get into my head? That might be kind of scary, but I hope it helps us all as we connect with the story and with Jesus in a real way.

**PP#3:** Luke 8:22-25 (CEB)

22 One day Jesus and His disciples boarded a boat. He said to them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” So they set sail.

23 While they were sailing, He fell asleep. Gale-force winds swept down on the lake. The boat was filling up with water and they were in danger. 24 So they went and woke Jesus, shouting, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!” But He got up and gave orders to the wind and the violent waves. The storm died down and it was calm.

25 He said to His disciples, “Where is your faith?”

Filled with awe and wonder, they said to each other, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him!”

Turn in your Bibles to Luke 8. We've got a long way to go today, we're going to the end of the chapter. But as I turn to chapter 8, I remember that Jesus is in His second tour around the area of Galilee, northern Israel, ushering in the Kingdom of God. He's enjoying popularity, and He is working miracles to back up His claims that He is the Messiah and God's Son. Some people are choosing to follow Him, and we have joined as disciples, too.

Now, in verses 22-25 Jesus takes His disciples and gets into a boat to cross over to the other side of the lake. Galilee, where the Jews lived, was on the north and west side of the Sea of Galilee. On the east side it was mostly Gentiles. It was part of the region that was called "The Decapolis" or "The 10 [Roman] Cities."

I notice, first off, that Jesus doesn't stay in Galilee. Perhaps make a note of this to verse 26. He is announcing the in-breaking of God's Kingdom, and He leaves the Jews behind and goes over to Gentile area. Here again I see that Jesus is not just the Savior for the Jews, but for all people.

The storm that arose is a foreshadowing of the storms to come. Jesus has authority over the winds and waves; they obey Him. And Jesus' question to His disciples is a question to me: Where is my faith? What kind of faith do I have in Jesus? Do I believe He will carry me through any storm?

I am filled with awe and wonder. And I make the connection: I should also obey Him.

**PP#4:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

26 Jesus and His disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met Him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless."

So, with that, we turn to verse 26.

**Reader:** "26 Jesus and His disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met Him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless."

It seems to me that Jesus may have planned to land at this spot on purpose. I wonder if Jesus might have intended to go help this man, or if it was just a coincidence. But I don't think there are coincidences in Jesus' ministry. At any rate, I find it interesting that the man came to Jesus. Why? Did he know who Jesus was? Or did the demons inside him know about Jesus? Is the man hoping for healing, or did Jesus summon the demons?

Either way, I see that the moment Jesus steps on foreign soil, there is spiritual warfare. We saw this back in the synagogue in Capernaum, remember? Wherever Jesus goes, the kingdom of the world is pushed back. Jesus brings in God's Kingdom, and that means spiritual warfare.

So, demons possessed this man. Do I believe in demons? I guess I have to if I believe this story. This is not an ancient way of talking about an illness or seizures or something. This is true demon possession...I mean Jesus talks to the demons, right? As I understand it, demons are fallen angels who joined with Lucifer in the rebellion against God. In Rev. 12:3 it seems that it was about a third of the angels, and God cast them down to earth, where they are to this day. I know that the Bible prophecies that at the end times, the demons and Lucifer/Satan will be destroyed. But until then, they are working to spread the kingdom of evil across the earth.

You know, we don't deal with spiritual warfare much, do we? I mean, at least blatantly like this. I don't identify too many people as being possessed by demons (even though there may be a couple that wouldn't surprise me!). But why is that, do you think? It is so prevalent here in the Jesus story, and not so much in ours. Hmm. John Wesley actually commented on this. He suggested that in those days—and in certain places on earth to this day—Satan works much more overtly, especially in cultures of violence and fear. But in our western culture, John Wesley said, Satan is far more effective by working covertly, and wins most battles because God's people become comfortable, passive and disengaged: good people doing nothing!

But this man gives us a good visual image of the demonic. What do demons do? What does evil want? What is its goal? Notice that the man has been robbed of his dignity (he's naked), his life (he's not functioning in society), and his home (he's homeless). He is alone, and he is living out in the cemetery. And it's been awhile. He is breathing, but he is no longer living. He is a bit like a zombie: not dead, but not really alive, either. This is what the demonic wants: death. God is life. Evil is death. What is Jesus, the Son of God, going to do? I've got a really good guess!

**PP#5:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

28 When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before Him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"

Verse 28 ....

**Reader:** 28 When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before Him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"

The demon is in control of the poor man. But I see how Jesus, even in what is not at home, has total authority and complete control! The demon is scared, and bows down to Jesus. And it professes Jesus' true identity: "Son of the Most High God." The Jewish leaders didn't believe this. The crowds are curious at best. But John the Baptist, the tax collectors, the Roman centurion and the demons profess Jesus' true identity.

And, I wonder, what did the demon mean, "don't torture me!"? He must be worried that Jesus was going to "end" him: bring about his demise before the end times. He knew for sure, however, that with Jesus showing up, things were not going to stay the same. His power was over.

**PP#6:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

29 He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

Verse 29 ....

**Reader:** "He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness."

Wow, scary stuff! Again, I can see the nature and intent of the demonic: it is to destroy and to tear down. He would throw the man into fits, even enough to break shackles and chains! He could not be restrained: the demonic brings chaos, disorder, and wilderness.

So, this makes me think about application. How do I grapple with the demonic in my life? What are the ways I struggle with chaos, disorder and refusal to live in a restrained way? I, and we, may not be demon possessed, but we fight spiritual battles. I believe the lie that doing my own thing means I get the life I want. But at the end of every selfish and self-serving path is a cemetery. God's way—order, self-discipline, acting responsibility—may not always seem very fun, but it is the path of life. I'm asking myself: in what ways do I need Jesus to free me?

**PP#7:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had entered him.

Verse 30,

**Reader:** "Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?'

'Legion,' he replied, because many demons had entered him."

Jesus asks the man for his name. Jesus wants to restore his identity. But the demons answer! They control his identity. And that identity is revealed. Remember in the previous section when Jesus said that light reveals what is hidden? Here Jesus, the Light of the world, reveals the hidden evil.

Wow, many demons in the same man. How miserable he must have been! But the volume of the demonic doesn't phase Jesus. Whether facing one or a thousand, His power is the same. Now this gives me great assurance. There is nothing in my life that Jesus' can't bring under control!

**PP#8:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

31 They pleaded with Him not to order them to go back into the abyss [underworld]. 32 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, 33 and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

Verse 31 ....

**Reader:** "They pleaded with Him not to order them to go back into the abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned."

Again, I have a hard time understanding some of this. Why did they not want to go back into the underworld...that's the meaning of the word here? Would Satan punish them? Did they hate Satan, too? And what is the point of going into the pigs? If they just caused the pigs to die, where do they go then? Aren't they in the same predicament? Why would Jesus allow this destruction? And demons can possess animals? That's weird, and scary!

I just don't know. But the story does clearly show me a couple of things. One is that I see the relationship between Jesus and the demons: *they* are begging for permission *from Jesus*. No doubt

about who's in charge, right? And the pigs again show us the true nature of evil: death and self destruction. It's so trendy today to find evil intriguing and attractive. Don't be fooled!

And I can't help but think about the pig's owners, and the loss to them...and what that did to the price of pork for the next few months. Did it create food scarcity?

Pigs are unclean animals to the Jews, and so the demons identify with the unclean. The demons, like the weather, must obey Jesus' command. But notice, people don't. Isn't it amazing that our God, with this kind of inconceivable authority, who commands legions of demons like nothing, allows us to make our own decisions? I can't help but think about the indignity of such a supreme ruler being so humble. And then I look and see Him hanging on a cross. Just incredible.

**PP#9:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

34 When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. 35 People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. 36 Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. 37 Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So He got into the boat and returned across the lake.

Verse 34 ....

**Reader:** "When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered. Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So He got into the boat and returned across the lake."

Ah, so I see this isn't just about the man. The encounter becomes a testimony to all those around. Word spread, and people came to see for themselves. And now notice how the man is described: dressed, thinking clearly, at peace. He has been fully restored. Again, awe and wonder spread among the crowd. God's Kingdom had arrived! Application here: This is what Jesus does! He restores life! There are no storms too strong or demons too many for Jesus not to restore to full life. This is what God's Kingdom on earth looks like! This is what Jesus can do for me!

And for the first time in Luke, when the people see what Jesus could do, they become afraid! They didn't want Him to stay and be their miracle worker. They knew that this was God's direct power, and that made them afraid! This makes me think: if I didn't know God, would I be afraid of Him? I mean, His power is supreme. Perhaps I am too much like the Jews, who had grown so comfortable with God that they were wanting more miracles. Perhaps I need to learn from these Gentiles to hold God with a bit more awe and healthy fear.

And I can't help but notice that Jesus did what He was asked. He left. You know, Jesus will leave if I ask Him to. Demons obey Jesus, but Jesus will obey me. That makes me rethink how carefully I should be treating Jesus. He will leave if I don't want Him.

**PP#10:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of His disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you.” So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.

Verse 38 ....

**Reader:** “The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of His disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, ‘Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you.’ So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.”

The man wants to become one of Jesus’ disciples, following Him around. But Jesus, instead, makes him a pastor. Jesus sends him back among his own people to be God’s witness to them. You know, often, it’s hardest to be a witness for Jesus to our own people, our own family. But this is always our first calling. I need to take seriously Jesus’ calling for me to be a witness to my own people. And this guy, he just became the first local pastor, and was appointed by Jesus Himself!

So, Jesus withdraws and heads back to Galilee. This time favorable winds, and a favorable reception.

**PP#11:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

40 When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him, for they had been waiting for Him. 41 A man named Jairus, who was a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a twelve-year-old, was dying. As Jesus moved forward, He faced smothering crowds.

Verse 40 ....

**Reader:** “When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed Him, for they had been waiting for Him. 41 A man named Jairus, who was a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet. He pleaded with Jesus to come to his house because his only daughter, a twelve-year-old, was dying. As Jesus moved forward, He faced smothering crowds.”

Why were the people waiting for Jesus? Did they want Him, or His miracles? This is a question I must ask myself. Now, last time Luke records Jesus returning to Capernaum, the Roman leader of 100 soldiers asked Jesus to heal his sick slave. This time it is the Jewish leader of the synagogue who asks Jesus for healing, for his daughter. Last time it was the builder of the synagogue, this time it’s the one who organizes the weekly services in the synagogue. He would have been the one who had invited Jesus to speak in their synagogue in the past.

I must say, I do wonder: why is this man’s name provided? Often names aren’t given in these stories, right? Why was this man’s name remembered and recorded? I can’t help but wonder if he didn’t become a Jesus follower and was known in the church in Capernaum.

Anyway, Jesus responded. He started heading in that direction. Now, that’s important to notice! When a need comes to Jesus, He heads toward it. That gives me great hope! When I take a need to Jesus, I can know that He will move toward it. That’s the Good News right there, isn’t it!

But as Jesus tries to go, He is swarmed by people clamoring for Him. The needs are overwhelming. We hear of the one girl, but the needs are rampant. Even when I wonder if Jesus cares about my issues in a world engulfed in need, I see that Jesus still takes care of Jairus’ daughter.



**PP#12:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

43 A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent her entire livelihood on doctors, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind Him and touched the hem of His clothes, and at once her bleeding stopped.

Verse 43 ....

**Reader:** “A woman was there who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent her entire livelihood on doctors, but no one could heal her. She came up behind Him and touched the hem of His clothes, and at once her bleeding stopped.”

And the need of this invisible woman in the crowd Jesus also took care of along the way.

Now here there are two stories, one inside the other, like a sandwich. Luke is taking the story from Mark, I believe, who uses this writing technique a lot. Two seemingly unrelated stories are put together, and the inside story—the meat of the story sandwich—shows the point of the outer story. So, the outer story is Jairus’ daughter. The inner story is the bleeding woman. The woman had done all she could and was stuck. Like the demoniac: her means and identity were lost. But amazingly, she hoped in Jesus and believed even just a quick touch of His garment would heal her. So, unclean as she was, she snuck into the crowd to risk touching Jesus. And she could feel she was healed. I’m sure she was so excited, but tried to slip away quietly. But Jesus wasn’t done with her yet.

**PP#13:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

45 “Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When everyone denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing in on you!”

46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me.”

47 When the woman saw that she couldn’t escape notice, she came trembling and fell before Jesus. In front of everyone, she explained why she had touched Him and how she had been immediately healed.

48 “Daughter, your faith has healed you,” Jesus said. “Go in peace.”

Verse 45 ....

**Reader:** ““Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

“When everyone denied it, Peter said, ‘Master, the crowds are surrounding you and pressing in on you!’

“But Jesus said, ‘Someone touched me. I know that power has gone out from me.’

“When the woman saw that she couldn’t escape notice, she came trembling and fell before Jesus. In front of everyone, she explained why she had touched Him and how she had been immediately healed.

““Daughter, your faith has healed you,’ Jesus said. ‘Go in peace.’”

Jesus asks a ridiculous question: there were pressing people on all sides! It’s not that Jesus has quantitative power that He feels leave Him—He’s not a battery. He has limitless power. And it’s not that touching His cloak makes the miracle happen: quite clearly He says it’s her faith. But to Jesus, her healing wasn’t complete. The woman was not just sick. She was also invisible and lost.

So Jesus stops to make a public point: He draws her back into the public's eye, and after restoring her body, also restores her identity. He calls her "daughter." Remember earlier in the chapter? Who is Jesus' family? Those who have faith in Him. Her identity is whole; she is a daughter of God! The Greek word here for "healed," is used for both physical and spiritual healings. And because of Jesus, for the first time in 12 years, she has true peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, Amen?

So, from this story, I see that because the woman had faith in Jesus, her life was restored. Jesus raises this daughter of God back into full life. And the point of this inner story is also the point of the outer story. So, back to the story of Jairus' daughter. By the way, how long was the woman bleeding? [12 years]. How old was the sick girl? [12 years.] Not a coincidence!

**PP#14:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying to Jairus, "Your daughter has died. Don't bother the teacher any longer."

50 When Jesus heard this, He responded, "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed."

Verse 49 ....

**Reader:** "While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying to Jairus, 'Your daughter has died. Don't bother the teacher any longer.'

"When Jesus heard this, He responded, 'Don't be afraid; just keep trusting, and she will be healed.'"

The situation has gone from bad to worse. You can't heal a dead person. But remember Jesus and the widow's son? And Jesus encourages everyone to apply the point from the previous healing of the woman: keep the faith, and there will be healing. So, what am I do to in hopeless situations? What do I do when facing the power of death? Keep looking at Jesus. He's on His way. Keep trusting. Healing is coming.

**PP#15:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

51 When He came to the house, He didn't allow anyone to enter with Him except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. 52 They were all crying and mourning for her, but Jesus said, "Don't cry. She isn't dead. She's only sleeping." 53 They laughed at Him because they knew she was dead.

Verse 51 ....

**Reader:** "When He came to the house, He didn't allow anyone to enter with Him except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all crying and mourning for her, but Jesus said, 'Don't cry. She isn't dead. She's only sleeping.' They laughed at Him because they knew she was dead."

When Jesus arrives, He takes just Peter, John and James inside. This is not a public spectacle. The parents, the family, are in serious grief. This, by the way, is the first mention in Luke of Jesus' inner circle. Of the 12, Jesus takes these three on special missions with Him. Make a note of this.

In the midst of crying and mourning, Jesus speaks a different reality. She is not dead. Jesus says instead that she's asleep. Now, she's not literally asleep. She's literally dead. She has not swooned or fainted. Verse 53 clarifies that she was truly "all dead." But Jesus uses the image of sleep to try to convey that with Him, death is just like sleep. He said the same thing about Lazarus when He had died. Make a note saying "See John 11:11."

Here's an application for me. When I have faith in Jesus, death becomes merely like sleep. That's why the old Christian practice was to put "RIP" on tombstones. It's a faith proclamation, that those who die in Jesus are not dead. We are just resting in the peace that Jesus gives. Pretty cool!

**PP#16:** Luke 8:26-56 (CEB)

54 Taking her hand, Jesus called out, "Child, get up." 55 Her life returned and she got up at once. He directed them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were beside themselves with joy, but He ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

And sure enough, Jesus reaches out. Verse 54 ....

**Reader:** "Taking her hand, Jesus called out, 'Child, get up.' 55 Her life returned and she got up at once. He directed them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were beside themselves with joy, but He ordered them to tell no one what had happened."

Make a note to verse 26 and say "Again, personal touch of Jesus." Jesus reaches out, personally, and touches those He heals. He restores her life, again, just by *speaking* life. He commands, and like the storm and the demons, the dead obey, instantly! He calls for food to refresh her body, but also to show she was fully functioning. And joy erupted!

Now, the demoniac Jesus told to go share his story, but to the parents, Jesus told them to stay quiet. It doesn't seem to make sense, but I think it might have something to do with Jesus not wanting even more hype about His miracles. He brings healing and life, yes, but who He is and what He does can only be correctly understood *after* we see Jesus hanging on a cross. Jesus wants people to know that He is bringing in God's Kingdom, but He doesn't want it to become about the miracles. Being the Messiah also means suffering and dying. It's not a popularity-or prosperity-Gospel.

**PP#17:** *Image showing how Jesus restores us to full life again right now.*

Phew! Are you worn out? It's been a lot, right?

And it's been exhausting because you've been with me as I've tried to sort through all this. Perhaps I've raised more questions than answers. But that's okay...that's part of following Jesus. It doesn't have to be all clear, but what is clear is our view of Jesus. And it's very clear that Jesus brings calm to storms, both physical and spiritual. He pushes back the chaos, the evil, the death, and restores life. He brings the Kingdom of God right into the lives of people who struggle, people who are lost, people who are half dead, people who are invisible. He restores identity, true identity, and makes people God's children. The demonic bows to Him. The grave gives up it's dead to Him. Lost, tortured outcasts become witnesses and pastors. Life is restored. So, follower of Jesus: Are you stormy? Lost? Tortured? Sick? Invisible? Dead? Jesus speaks, "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting, and [you] will be healed!" "Your faith has healed you...go in peace!"

Amen.

**[Live Worship Only] CLOSING SONG:** *How Can I Keep from Singing* -Sanctify

**OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

Wednesday night: Wed. meal (St. Patrick's Day)

Grow groups, Echo, Youth Group

Next Sunday's message: Cynthia Williams, our D.S., preaching for Women's Sunday!

Read ahead: [Cynthia's Scripture]: 1 John 4:14-21

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Daughter, your faith has healed you,’ Jesus said. ‘Go in peace.’” Luke 8:48

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David

**POSTLUDE** -Sanctify (live)