

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 8

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

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Background

- In Jesus' time, It was very unusual for an itinerant teacher to have women disciples.
- Parables illustrate clear teaching, and hide obscure teaching.
- A majority of the Jewish population worked in agriculture.
- Most Jewish farmers scattered seed, instead of planting it.
- Lake Galilee has sudden, severe wind storms that can sink small boats.
- When the poor were sick, they would spend all they had on physicians who could not help them.

History

- Herod Antipas (c. 20 BC – c. 39 AD) ruled over Galilee and Perea from 4 BC.
- Jesus continues his public ministry, expanding his reach.

Themes

- Jesus has authority over nature, evil spirits, disease and death.
- Jesus always helped those who showed that they had faith in him.
- God's kingdom operates on earth in spite of spiritual evil and of oppressive human government.
- Jesus shows no gender or age discrimination.

Women who followed and supported Jesus²

¹ Soon afterwards, Jesus and his twelve disciples went to many cities/towns and villages. Everywhere they went, he was telling people his good message about God who wants to rule over them as their Highest/Chief King.

² Some women were also going along with Jesus and his disciples. Jesus had expelled evil spirits from them or had healed their diseases. One woman was named Mary Magdalene (from Magdala village), from whom Jesus had expelled seven evil spirits. ³ Another was named Joanna, who was Chuza's

¹ Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted ^(pl) means plural, ^(sg) singular, ^(inc) inclusive, ^(exc) exclusive pronoun.

² OR Jesus explains to people how to serve God as their King.

wife. Chuza was an official serving King Herod Antipas. Another woman was named Susanna. These women were spending/giving their own money to provide food for Jesus and his disciples.

Parable about a Farmer sowing seeds

⁴ *At one city*, many people came from many towns to see Jesus. He told them this parable:

⁵ “A man went out to his field to sow some seeds. As he was scattering seeds over the soil, some seeds fell on the path. Then people walked on those seeds, and birds flew down and ate them.

⁶ Some seeds fell on rocks on which there was only a little moist/wet soil. As soon as those seeds sprouted, the plants dried up, because they had no more moisture/water. ⁷ Some seeds fell on ground that had many *roots belonging to* thorny weeds. As the thorny weeds grew together with the young plants, the weeds choked out the plants. ⁸ But some seeds fell on good soil and grew well. These seeds grew as plants, and later each seed produced 100 grains.”

Then Jesus said to them loudly, “If you want to understand this story, then you must think carefully about what I have told you!”

⁹ Jesus’ disciples later asked him about what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said,

“I speak to you disciples clearly about *how things are in* God’s kingdom. But I tell parables to others, so that only *those who believe in me* will understand what they see me do and hear me teach. ¹¹ This is what that parable means: The seeds represent God’s message that I teach.

¹² Some people are like the *hard* path on which some seeds fell. When these people hear God’s message, the devil comes and causes them to forget what they have heard. As a result, they do not believe it, so God will not save them. ¹³ Some people are like thin soil with rock underneath.³ When they hear God’s message, *at first* they accept it joyfully. But because they do not obey the message, they believe it for only a short time. They are like plants that do not have deep roots. So, when difficult things happen to them, they stop believing and obeying God’s message.

¹⁴ Some people are like soil that has thorny weeds growing in it. These people believe God’s message, but later on/soon God’s message gets choked out by worrying about things, and trying to become rich, and enjoying things that give them pleasure. So they are like plants that never produce grain/fruit. ¹⁵ But some people are like good soil. When they hear God’s message they believe it, and they obey it. They are like soil in which plants grow and produce much grain/fruit.”

Parable about a lamp

¹⁶ *Jesus continued saying*, “After people light a lamp, they do not cover it with a basket or put it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a shelf/table/stand for lamps, so that those who enter into their house can see things from its light. ¹⁷ In the same way, God wants to make all my teaching/truth clear and open/public to those who do not know it. ¹⁸ So listen carefully to all that I tell you, because God will enable those who believe my true teaching to understand even more. But God will cause those who do not believe my true teaching not to understand even the little that they think they have understood.”

³ OR with many rocks underneath.

Jesus' family

¹⁹ One day Jesus' mother and his younger brothers came to see him, but they could not get near him because there was a large crowd around him in the house. ²⁰ Someone said to him, "Your mother and your younger brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." ²¹ Jesus replied, "My mother and brothers are those *people* who hear God's message and obey it."⁴

Jesus calms a dangerous storm and sets free a demonized man⁵

²² One day Jesus entered into a boat with his disciples. He said to them, "Please sail the boat to the lake's other side." So they started to go. ²³ As they were sailing, he fell asleep. While he slept, a big windstorm came up/down on⁶ the lake. Soon lake water was filling⁷ the boat. They were in danger *that the boat might sink and they would drown/die*.

²⁴ One disciple woke Jesus up, shouting to him, "Master! Master!"⁸ We(inc) are going to drown!" Jesus sat up and rebuked the wind, "Stop blowing!" and he commanded the waves, "Be calm!" Immediately, the wind stopped blowing and the waves calmed down. The lake became very calm.

²⁵ Jesus said to them all, "You must always trust me *to protect you!*" They were still afraid but also amazed. They said to each other, "Jesus is not an ordinary human!"⁹ When he commands the wind and the water waves, they obey him!"

²⁶ Jesus and his disciples arrived in the region near Gerasa, a town which was on Lake Galilee's eastern side. ²⁷⁻²⁹ There was a man in that region near Gerasa whom many demons were controlling.¹⁰ For a long time he had not worn clothes, and he did not live in a house. Instead, he lived in burial caves.¹¹ Sometimes people bound him with chains and shackles¹² on his hands and feet, and they guarded him. But he would break the chains and shackles and the demons would force him to go to the wilderness.

When Jesus stepped out from the boat, the man saw Jesus, screamed, ran to him, and fell down before him. Jesus commanded the evil spirits, "Come out from this man!" But one demon replied through the man's voice, "Jesus! You are the Most-High Son/Child belonging to God. I beg you to leave

⁴ OR Those who hear God's message and obey it are as dear to me as my mother and my brothers.

⁵ OR Jesus demonstrates his divine authority over nature and demons.

⁶ OR struck. OR came on.

⁷ OR waves were swamping.

⁸ OR Teacher! Teacher!

⁹ OR Who is this man?! In the Greek, the disciples spoke a rhetorical question which emphasized their amazement about Jesus.

¹⁰ OR who was demonized.

¹¹ OR among graves

OR where dead people were buried.

¹² OR strong bindings. OR strong iron restraints. OR arm-leg chains. [Chains are like very strong metal/iron ropes. Shackles are very strong iron or wooden rings (handcuffs) that are placed around ankles and wrists, attached by short chains, so that the bound person is restricted and cannot move or walk freely. When translating an unknown idea, you have these options: (1) briefly describe the thing; (2) use something more general or more specific which is known in your culture; (3) borrow words from another language.]

me alone. Do not send me to suffer torment in hell!”³⁰ Jesus ordered the demon, “Tell me your(sg) name?” He/It replied, “My name is Mob.”¹³ It said this because many demons had entered into that man.³¹ All those demons were saying to Jesus. “We beg you not to order us to go into the abyss!”¹⁴

³² There was a large pig herd rooting/digging for food on a nearby hillside. So the demons said to Jesus, “We beg you to allow us to go enter those pigs!” And Jesus allowed them.³³ So then the demons left the man and entered into the pigs. And this caused all the pigs to rush down a steep bank into the lake water, and they drowned.^{15 34} When the men who were herding the pigs saw what happened, they ran away! They told people inside the town and outside the town what had happened.³⁵ So people went out from the town to see what had happened.

When they came to where Jesus was, they saw the man from whom Jesus had expelled the demons. He was sitting near Jesus’ feet, listening to him. He was wearing clothes, and his mind was normal again. They became afraid, *because they saw that Jesus had great power.*³⁶ People who had seen Jesus heal the man whom demons had been controlling,¹⁶ told the others how he did so.³⁷ The people from Gerasene area were very afraid *that Jesus’ power might harm them*, so they said to him, “Please leave this region!” So Jesus and his disciples entered into their boat to go back across the lake.

³⁸ The man from whom Jesus had expelled the demons begged him saying, “Please, let me go with you!” But Jesus replied to him,³⁹ “No, *my son.*”¹⁷ Go home and tell people how much God has done for you!” Then Jesus sent him *away in peace.* So the man went home¹⁸ and told people throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Jesus raises from death Jairus’ daughter and heals a woman bleeding abnormally¹⁹

⁴⁰ When Jesus and his disciples returned to Capernaum city, a crowd who had been waiting for him, welcomed him.⁴¹ Just then a man named Jairus, who was a leader in a synagogue, came near to Jesus and kneeled/bowed himself at his feet. Jairus pleaded with Jesus, “Please come to my house and heal my daughter! ⁴² She is dying!” (Jairus’s daughter was about twelve years old and she was his only child.) *Jesus agreed to go to Jairus’ house.* As he went with Jairus, many people pressed around Jesus.

¹³ OR Thousands. OR Many.

¹⁴ OR bottomless pit. OR the pit/hole that has no end.

¹⁵ OR they died in the water.

¹⁶ OR the demonized man.

¹⁷ OR No, my brother. OR No. (If Jesus’ answer “No” seems harsh or abrupt in your language, you may add a gentle/polite way for addressing another man.)

¹⁸ OR Jesus sent the man and he went home. (As Jesus had sent his disciples out to the villages and town, so Jesus sent this man, now free from the demons, to testify to his own people/family about Jesus’ kindness.)

¹⁹ OR Jesus demonstrates his divine authority/power over disease and death.

The Good News about Jesus as Luke Wrote it

⁴³ There was a woman in the crowd who had been suffering from constant *menstrual* bleeding²⁰ for twelve years, and no one was able to heal her. ⁴⁴ She came behind Jesus and touched his garment,²¹ hoping to be healed. When she touched his garment where his tassels hung down at the bottom near his ankles, at once, her bleeding stopped.

⁴⁵ Jesus asked, “Who touched me?” When everyone said that they had not touched him, Peter said, “Lord, many people are pressing around you(sg) and touching you!” ⁴⁶ But Jesus replied, “I know that someone deliberately touched me,²² because my power just now healed someone.”

⁴⁷ Trembling with fear *that Jesus might accuse her for defiling him*, the woman *again* came near to Jesus, and kneeled before him. As the other people were listening, she told Jesus why she had touched him, and that she was immediately healed. ⁴⁸ Jesus said to her, “Daughter,²³ because you believed that I could heal you, I have made you well. So you may go home healed.”²⁴

⁴⁹ While Jesus was still talking to the woman, a man came from Jairus’ house and said to Jairus, “Your daughter just died. So you should stop bothering the teacher *by urging him to go to your house.*” ⁵⁰ But when Jesus heard what had happened, he said to Jairus, “Do not worry *or think that there is nothing more that I can do.* If you believe that I can help/heal her,²⁵ then I will do so.” (*Jairus trusted Jesus, so they continued on.*)

⁵¹ When they arrived outside Jairus’ house, Jesus allowed only Peter, John, James, and the girl’s mother and father to go into the house with him. ⁵² All the people there were crying and beating their chests *to show that they were sad.*²⁶ But Jesus said to them, “Stop Crying! The girl is not dead! She is only sleeping!” ⁵³ The people outside laughed at Jesus,²⁷ because they knew that the girl was dead.

⁵⁴ But inside *Jairus’ house*, Jesus, grasping the girl’s hand, called to her, “Child, get up!” ⁵⁵ At once her spirit returned to her body,²⁸ and she got up, *alive.* *To prove that the girl was alive*, Jesus said to her mother, “Give her something to eat!” ⁵⁶ Her parents were amazed, but Jesus told them not to tell anyone *else yet* what had happened.

²⁰ OR constant bleeding from her womb. OR constant bleeding in the manner that women usually bleed once monthly. OR constant bleeding (omit other words). [The Law of Moses says that menstruating and bleeding women are (not sinning, but are) ceremonially unclean or impure. This impurity can be transferred to others, ceremonially defiling them and requiring them to do a ceremonial ritual to become clean or pure again (Lev. 15:19-33).]

²¹ OR cloak. OR clothes.

²² OR touched me intentionally. OR touched me on/with purpose.

²³ OR Dear lady. OR Madam. OR My sister. (You may use your language’s polite way to address a woman without saying her name.)

²⁴ OR go home in peace. (You may use your language’s polite way to say ‘good-bye’.)

²⁵ OR that I can bring her back to life.

²⁶ OR , lamenting the girl. OR , grieving for the dead girl.

²⁷ OR mocked/ridiculed Jesus and laughed at him *for speaking foolishly.* OR laughed at Jesus *feeling embarrassed for his foolish words.* (If it is not clear why the people laughed at Jesus, you may include a short explanation.)

²⁸ OR she began breathing again. (The Greek word *pneuma* can be translated ‘spirit’ or ‘breath’ in this context.)