

## The Discipler's Commentary

### Answer Outline for the Discipler

#### Luke 8

8:1-3 – The companions following Jesus: many who followed were women

- See if the disciple can find the connection between the end of chapter 7 and the beginning of chapter 8.
- Inform the disciple that of all the gospel writers, Luke was the one who most often mentioned women.
- Ensure that the disciple understands that women were just as important disciples as were the men. They especially took on the role of securing provisions for Jesus and the twelve apostles. And women followers of Jesus were just as important as the men in remembering the details of Jesus' earthly ministry, and it was to Mary Magdalene that Jesus first presented Himself at the resurrection.

8:4-15 – The parable of the sower and the seed: a picture of how people respond to the word

- Ensure that the disciple knows what a parable is: a story that could be true (but isn't necessarily), that always teaches a spiritual lesson, and one that reveals spiritual truth to believers but hides spiritual truth from unbelievers.
- Have the disciple tell the parable of the seed sown in his or her own words. See if the disciple can remember people he or she has known who fit into each category.
- Make sure the disciple does not attach the concept of being saved to this parable, as is often done from the pulpit. The point of the parable is clear: it is a parable that teaches how people respond to God's word. Any attachment of salvation is deductive, not inductive.
- Make sure the disciple is able to describe the different types of soil, and especially for the second and third soils. Have the disciple come up with specific examples from everyday life.
- This parable can be a great source of encouragement to the disciple. The disciple's desire to study the word is a good indicator of seed that is falling on "good soil."
- The disciple may have difficulty understanding the meaning of verse 10. The discipler may refer the disciple to the source, Isaiah 6:9. This verse has become a stumbling block to those who have not "been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God."

8:16-18 – The warning following the parable of the sower: take care how you listen

- Help the disciple see the relationship between the first parable (sown seed) and the second parable (lamp). (Hint: it is related to "bear fruit with perseverance.")
- Make sure the disciple understands the meaning of the second parable.
- Ensure that the disciple knows and can explain the significance of the word "listen." The discipler may want to have the disciple look up James 1:22.

8:19-21 – Jesus' family: Jesus had brothers and sisters

- If the disciple was brought up as a Roman Catholic, he or she may have some difficulty with verses 19-21. To reinforce the fact that Jesus had brothers and sisters, have the disciple look up Matt. 13:55-56 where they are named. Ask the disciple state the clear and logical meaning of the texts.
- It's very important that the disciple understand that the Catholic doctrine of "Immaculate Conception" does not refer to Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit, but to Mary's conception by her parents, and that it states that Mary herself was without sin. Inform the disciple that the doctrine of Immaculate Conception was not officially recognized by the Catholic church until about the time of Martin Luther and the beginning of the Reformation in the mid-1500s.

8:22-25 – Jesus calms the storm: Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith in Him

- *There are two important points for the disciple to grasp in his incident. First, it is the acknowledgement that Jesus is not just a very good teacher or miracle worker. The disciple should realize that this incident demonstrates clearly that Jesus is divine and has powers that only God has. This is a proof to Jesus' disciples that Jesus is the Son of God.*
- *Second, the disciple should attempt to make application out of this incident. If Jesus can control the weather, He can control anything. But be careful: the disciple mustn't assume that Jesus will make all trials and "storms" of life go away. This is the lesson: "Where is your faith?" The faith is not that Jesus will make all "storms" become calm, but that He is still in control. Of course, after this life is over, all storms will indeed be calmed.*

8:26-39 – The healing of the Gerasene demoniac: from demon possession to evangelist

- *Ask the disciple what he or she thinks was wrong with the man described in verse 27. If the disciple states there was a mental or psychiatric disorder, have the disciple read the text again. Make sure that the disciple understands that the source of the man's problems were demonic, and that it was the demon possession that affected his mental and behavioral health. If the man wasn't demon possessed, how else could the reaction of the swine be explained?*
- *This may not be the time, however, to launch into the subject of demonology. Be careful that it does not distract from the true message of Jesus' encounter with the man; that is, his deliverance.*
- *Have the disciple describe the reaction of the townspeople. Why is this such a sad situation?*
- *Have the disciple describe why Jesus instructed the man not to go with Him. What was the man's greater mission?*
- *Finally, have the disciple discover the elements of love—or sometimes lack of it—that are interwoven throughout this incident.*

8:40-42, 49-56 – The resurrection of Jairus's daughter: a Jewish ruler believes Jesus can raise the dead

- *The love motif continues into these next two encounters. Have the disciple identify them.*
- *This, of course, is not the first resurrection performed by Jesus. With the widow in Nain, it was her only son who had died. In this incident, it is Jairus's only child. What was significant about Jairus's status in the Jewish community, and why is that important to the story?*
- *When Jesus arrives at the house, He is greeted by official mourners. What is ironic that they so quickly move from mourning to "laughing"?*
- *Have the disciple determine how faith plays a role in Jairus's request of Jesus. Obviously, Jairus believed that Jesus could heal his sick daughter, but it never occurred to him that Jesus could also raise her from the dead.*
- *When arriving at Jairus's house, ask the disciple why Jesus only allowed Peter, James and John, and the girl's parents, to be witnesses to the resurrection.*
- *Jesus instructs the parents to give the girl something to eat. Why did He do that? (It falls into the category of proof.)*
- *How does the act of raising from the dead fit with the story of the woman with an issue of blood?*

8:43-48 – The unclean woman with an issue of blood: her faith saves her

- *Ask the disciple to describe the similarities of these two encounters by Jesus. How were both Jairus's daughter and the woman with the issue of blood raised from the dead?*
- *What role did the woman's faith play in her healing? How did her faith differ from Jairus's?*
- *Ask the disciple to describe how this woman's social and spiritual life would change as a result of her being healed from a constant flow of blood. (This may require some review of Jewish laws concerning a woman's menstrual cycle. See Lev. 15:25-30.)*