

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"STORM WATCH" | LUKE 8:22-8:39 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What type of extreme weather/storm would be the scariest to experience? Why?

"Lord of the Natural Realm" (Luke 8: 22-25)

Jesus' disciples have seen miracles and heard Jesus teach, yet when he calms the storm as they are crossing the sea they ask, "Who is this?", showing this miracle was impressive to these fishermen. **What did calming the storm show about Jesus? What does that mean for His followers today?**

"Lord of the Supernatural Realm" (Luke 8: 26-39)

A man is freed from demonic possession, yet the townspeople become afraid and ask Jesus to leave after the herd of pigs is destroyed. **How can attachments to our property lead to fear and pushing God away?**

Jesus rejects the healed man's request to come with him and instead tells him to share his story of God's work in his life to his friends and neighbors. **Who are people today who have been able to share with others how Jesus rescued them?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

In this passage today we see Jesus demonstrate his power over large natural forces and large supernatural forces. We all feel overwhelmed by both natural and supernatural problems at times. **How have you approached Jesus with the problems you are currently facing: Wondering if he cares? Asking Him to leave? Feeling all will drown? Talk to Jesus about what's threatening you and ask Him to remind you He is in the middle of It with you.**

Storm Watch

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-6 Lar: Fam Nite. VBS. Women Worship. Visual Vol. Int Day for Unreached/Hani
- B. Slide7 Israel Info Mtg: 5:30-6:30pm. Agape Rm (park over by gym)
- C. Slide8 Prayer Mtg: 6:30-7:30pm. Agape Rm (park over by gym)
- D. Slide9 Baby Dedication: *Jeremiah Isaiah Campbell*. Parents: *John & Violet*.

II. Slide10 **Intro:** *Storm Watch*

- A. So far Luke has shown us Jesus' great teaching and His might acts. Some of those mighty acts have shown His power over disease, & even death.
 1. This morning, we'll witness His power over all things, summed up in *the Natural Realm & the Supernatural Realm* in 2 easy-to-understand stories.
- B. Note this progression in both stories: The display of His power and authority. Then a reckoning of the One with this power. And then a response to it. (what He does. who He is. what should we do about it?)
 1. Whatever you're dealing with today, it fits into 1 of those 2 categories.
- C. Let me remind us & catch us up. The last thing Jesus said was (Lk.8:21), the diff between His blood family & *His spiritual family*.
 1. Maybe he's continuing with the theme of how far His family extends?
 2. Maybe that's why He's going across Galilee, to the Gentiles? Even as far as a *demon possessed gentile*.
 3. The story kind of reminds us of Jonah. Except Jonah was *running away from* the gentiles and Jesus is *running to them*.

III. Slide11 **LORD OF THE NATURAL REALM (22-25)**

- A. Jesus certainly knew the storm was coming, yet He went to sleep in the boat.

1. They knew His word, *let us go across to the other side of the lake* (not drown in the middle), **but** they did not believe when they faced this life test.
 - a) It's easy to **learn** the truth, quite something else to **live** it.
- B. **Slide12a Are You Sinking?** We are **perishing** (24) wait, *WE?* (*Jesus* is going to sink?)
 1. With this severe squall threatening to **sink** the disciples. **What's threatening to sink you this week?**
 - a) end of semester **exams**. uncertainty of the **future**. difficulties in your **family**. not sure if your **marriage** is going to endure this latest storm. **pain**. an **emotional** breakdown.
- C. **Slide12b Do You Think Jesus Even Cares?** From Mark's account (5:35-41) *Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?*
 1. **Imagine being awakened to that question?**
 2. So, **does He not care?** Of course He does!
- D. **Slide12c Jesus Are You Sleeping?** Maybe you've asked, *Jesus, why did you **fall asleep** at that important time in my life?*
 1. **Although God does not always shield us from the destructiveness of all life's storms. He can always be trusted to be there in the storm with us.** (Shepherd's Notes, pg.33)
 2. God is not my refuge **from** trouble, **but** my refuge **in** trouble.
 - a) But you're not always in **trouble**, you're in **training**.
- E. **He awoke and rebuked both the wind & waves.** [normally if you run across a man who's *talking to the wind*, he's a little bit off, **but** when both listen, hmm]
 1. Not only **the wind above the sea, but also the current below.**
 - a) The sweet I couldn't even **speak to the carbonation** of my **Dr. Pepper** running over the top of my glass, **Stop, Stop, Stop!** & have it **listen** to me.
 2. **The creation obeys its Creator, it knows its God.**
- F. **Slide12d Where is your Faith?** Not asking them to *go look for their faith*, **but they should be more trusting.**

1. Jesus wasn't looking at *danger* & calling it *not dangerous*, but the problem with not thinking they could *call out to Jesus*. And that Jesus *didn't care*. Those are both a problem.

a) Psalm 23:4 *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.*

2. There was no need to wake Him, your boat can't go down w/Christ on board

3. The **storm** couldn't disturb Him, but the **unbelief** of His disciples did.

G. Campbell Morgan, pg.112

G. *But Christ seems to be asleep! Don't wake him. Don't be panicked. And don't imagine He wants you to keep the ark safe, or the boat up.* G. Campbell Morgan, pg.112

H. Slide12e Who Can This Be? From fear of the **Storm** to fear of the **Savior** ... *Who can this be?* (maybe the more terrifying of storms)

1. No mere teacher, or prophet, or faith healer ... **He Tames Nature!**

a) Jesus showed Himself, *Lord over the Natural Realm*. And now He will show Himself ... *Lord over the Supernatural Realm*.

b) They don't even realize they're *heading right into another storm*.

IV. Slide13,14 **LORD OF THE SUPERNATURAL REALM (26-39)**

A. Slide15 He can calm a *tormented soul* as easily as He can calm a *tempestuous sea*.

B. Jesus steps out of the boat & this man ran and fell at His feet.

1. **What bondage** :(naked, living in caves/tombs, he was a *cutter* (he would *cry out and cut himself w/stones* Mrk 5:5), he was **violent** & couldn't be chained, and here he is running at the boat (*Aaahhhh!*)

2. *Like a warm front hitting a cold front head on, the forces of good & evil collide.*

3. Here's a creature you'd probably meet only in your worst nightmares.

a) How did this man *made in the image of God* become so marred?

4. **Now** his body a beachhead of Satan, yet it is onto this beachhead that **Jesus** now lands!

5. The disciples must have thought, *great, we are near tombs & pigs, both unclean for us Jews.*

C. **A legion** (6,000) – Wow, I can't even imagine being possessed by 6000 fleas let alone that many demons. *His only companion, demons.*

D. Jesus *freed* him from their supernatural oppression.

1. Even demons **bow** before Jesus. Satan knows Him as **Lord of all**.

E. They begged Him to not be sent into the Abyss, **but** instead into *the herd of swine*.

1. We **don't** have a lot of details when it comes to the *demonic realm*. Just make sure you don't **over** emphasize the demonic **or** **under** emphasize it.

a) Come w/me to Israel & I can show you *where* it happened on Galilee.

b) *But know this*, Jesus is **over** the supernatural realm.

2. *Why into the pigs?* it seems they desire a host [they seem to want contact w/the material realm]. By this **dramatic act** (into the pigs) this would show they actually **came out of the man & went somewhere else**.

F. **Slide16a** Note the repetition of the word *begged*. (vs. 31,32,37,38)

1. The demons **begged** him *not the abyss/pit*.

2. The demons **begged** him *let us enter the pigs*.

3. The people **asked** him, *leave our country*.

4. The former demoniac **begged** him, *let me be with you*.

5. **Slide16b** And Jesus answers **yes** to the 1st 3, **& no** to the 3rd.

a) **Yes** to the demons petitions. **Yes** to the peoples. **No** to the new convert!

b) *Is this how you'd treat a brand new believer in his 1st prayer?*

G. Regarding the people who asked Jesus to leave - how many **lives** were unchanged, how many **sick** not healed, how many **captives** went unreleased, *because of* a herd of swine was judged as more valuable than a human soul?¹ *Ken Gire*

¹ Ken Gire, Intimate Moments w/the Savior, pg.41

1. We can hardly see *the man*, because we have **lost our pigs**.

- H. **Slide17a Return to your home** – Mark expands, *Go home to your friends* (convey My family is for Gentiles too). *Tell them how much the Lord has done for you* (convey My Power) & *how He has had mercy on you* (convey especially My heart of love/mercy)
- I. This man becomes the 1st witness for Jesus in **Gentile** territory. (in his hometown & *all the Decapolis*)

1. What would it have helped to go on the, *I was once demon possessed church speaking circuit?*

- a) **Instead**, back home they knew him, & would quickly see a true change (rather than people who had never met him).

J. **Wrap Up:** The true battle for a **soul** is *spiritual*, always is!

1. Eph.6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

2. **Remember** that *people* are not the enemy, no matter how **mean** (or deranged, or possessed, or far gone) they might be.

K. **Slide17b Believers**, we too have been **Cleansed** (from our sin). **Clothed** (in His righteousness). & **Commissioned** (to tell the world our story, & **His** story).

1. **Have you been cleansed & clothed? How are you doing in your charge/ commission? What great things has He done for you lately that you can tell others about?** Ps.9:1 *I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*

L. **Prayer:** Allow the **storms** in our lives to *strengthen us not shipwreck us*. Help us now **cleansed & clothed** to fulfill our personal **commission**, *esp to the Unreached!*

M. ***Communion:** [**Bread:** we confess our secret fears, lack of trust, failing faith, not grasping who you are in our situations. **Cup:** TY cleansed from sin, clothed in rt,

commissioned to tell our/His story]

N. Keywords: faith, fear, freedom.