

This passage is really a continuation of the previous one: Luke continues to stress the themes of the person of Jesus and the response of faith that Jesus is seeking. It may appear as if Luke has merely thrown together a series of incidents in rather a disordered fashion. But Luke claimed, in his preface (1:1-4), to be writing an orderly account. Jesus begins to reveal who he is and what he will do. His actions show that he is God's Son who has come to rescue God's people.

1. What are the main subsections of this chapter? What is the main point of each subsection?

2. Look at the parable of the sower and Jesus' explanation of it (8:4-8,11-15). What, according to Jesus, is the 'seed'? What, in this context, is meant by its being sown?

3. What are the four possible responses to God's Word described in this passage. According to 8:15 and 21, what is involved in responding correctly to Jesus?

4. What does Jesus demonstrate authority over in 8:22-56?

5. In 8:22-25, what does Jesus criticise his disciples about? What does the disciples' response to the storm before Jesus' miracle show us about their understanding of who Jesus is? How do they respond after Jesus' miracle, and why do they respond in this way?

6. In 8:26-39, how do the people of the region of the Gerasenes respond to Jesus' miracle? Why do they respond in this way, and in what way is their response wrong? What does Jesus do as a result?

7. Look at the incident in 8:40-42, 49-56. How does Jesus want Jairus to respond to the news of his daughter's death (v.50)? Why is this such a significant miracle?

8. How people respond to Jesus matters. The response Jesus is looking for is faith. But proper faith is based on a right understanding of who Jesus is. What have you learned in this chapter about Jesus and people that will be helpful for your own evangelism?