



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Examining the text & our hearts:

Bible Reading: Luke 8:16-25

16 “No one, after lighting a lamp, covers it with a basket or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand so that those who come in may see its light. 17 For nothing is concealed that won’t be revealed, and nothing hidden that won’t be made known and brought to light. 18 Therefore take care how you listen. For whoever has, more will be given to him; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him.”

19 Then his mother and brothers came to him, but they could not meet with him because of the crowd. 20 He was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

21 But he replied to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear and do the word of God.”

22 One day he and his disciples got into a boat, and he told them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, 23 and as they were sailing he fell asleep. Then a fierce windstorm came down on the lake; they were being swamped and were in danger. 24 They came and woke him up, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to die!”

Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. So they ceased, and there was a calm.

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

They were fearful and amazed, asking one another, “Who then is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him!” (Luke 8:16-25 CSB)

SUMMARY:

In this section of Luke 8 Jesus calls his believers to be careful how they hear God’s Word. Jesus teaches that truth, like light, is meant to be received and lived out, not hidden or ignored. Hearing without obedience risks losing the truth we’ve been given, but those who truly listen respond with faith and action. Jesus reinforces this by redefining His true family as those who hear and do God’s Word. The calming of the storm then reveals why Jesus is worth listening to: He has divine authority, even over nature—He does what only God can do—showing He is truly God. Jesus’ message challenges us as Christians to move beyond passive listening to active obedience, cultivating a real, growing

relationship with Christ through faithful trust and daily practice of “doing” His Word.

“Be Careful How You Hear “

The beginning of Luke chapter 8 shows Jesus starting with a parable. This is the first time we see Jesus use a parable to convey a spiritual truth. Jesus is well known for using parables as a way to explain spiritual truths. Usually, Jesus uses images of things people were very familiar with—such as farming, nature, money, people in debt, and family situations.

When we read the parables, there are some important things to remember so that we understand them as accurately as possible.

1. First, the context of what happens before & after the parable is very important for understanding its main point. Many times, we misinterpret a parable...without considering the context.

2. Second, we need to be careful not to read too much into the story. Often, we tend to look for meaning in every detail of the parable, which can change its intended message.

This is important as we continue with the rest of the chapter.

Don't hide the truth

16 “No one, after lighting a lamp, covers it with a basket or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand so that those who come in may see its light. 17 For nothing is concealed that won't be revealed, and nothing hidden that won't be made known and brought to light. 18 Therefore take care how you listen. For whoever has, more will be given to him; and whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken away from him.” (Luke 8:16-18)

Luke continues this chapter with two more stories to reinforce the point of the parable. Jesus says in verse 16, “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light.” Another way to think about this would be: “Who would buy a new car, insure it, park it, and never drive it?” or “Who would buy a new phone and just put it away without ever using it?” That would be ridiculous—and Jesus uses this image because it is ridiculous. But what is He trying to say?

Light is often a symbol for truth. One of the main things Jesus did during His ministry was reveal the truth about who God is and about the world we live in. His teaching brings light—truth—about who He is, who we are, and how this world truly works.

What Jesus is saying is: don't take the truth I've given you and then do nothing with it. In 8:18 He says, “Take care then how you hear.” Then He gives a warning: “for the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks he has will be taken away.” In other words, if we do not take care in how we hear, we risk losing the very truth we received.

So the question is: How do we take care of how we hear? The answer is found in the parable Jesus just told. In 8:15 He says, “As for...the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.” **The ones who bear fruit are the ones who hear and then act on what they have heard.**

This is the same point Jesus will emphasize again in the next section.

Jesus' Family

19 Then [Jesus'] mother and brothers came to him, but they could not meet with him because of the crowd. 20 He was told, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

21 But he replied to them, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear and do the word of God.”

We don't see too many places in the Bible that mention Jesus' family. In this story, we see a large crowd trying to reach Jesus. This seems to be a common occurrence for Him, but what stands out here is that Jesus' family is trying to get to Him—but they are having a hard time. When someone informs Jesus about them, He gives a response we would not expect. In 8:21, He says, “My mother and my brothers are **those who hear the word of God and do it.**” Jesus is not saying that He doesn't have a biological family or that He doesn't care about them; rather, He is emphasizing once again the importance of not just hearing the word, but doing the word.

This is consistent with the rest of the New Testament. In John 14, Jesus says twice that **those who love Him are the ones who keep His commandments**. The book of James also teaches in James 1 that we **are to be doers of the word and not merely hearers**.

? “The one who has my commands & keeps them [my commands] is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him & will reveal myself to him... If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, & we will come to him & make our home with him” (Jn. 14:21, 23)

? “Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word & not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, & immediately forgets what kind of person he was.” (James 1:22-24)

In all relationships, action is essential. You can know a lot about a person, but to have a real relationship with them you need to speak with them, spend time with them, and show acts of love. The same is true with God. God desires a relationship with everyone, and He sent His Son to die so that a relationship with Him would be possible. But to have a thriving relationship with Him means not only hearing what He says, but doing what He tells us.

Why should we listen to Jesus?

22 One day [Jesus] and his disciples got into a boat, and he told them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, 23 and as they were sailing he fell asleep. Then a fierce windstorm came down on the lake; they were being swamped and were in danger. 24 They came and woke him up, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to die!”

Then he got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves. So they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

They were fearful and amazed, asking one another, “Who then is this? He commands even the winds and the waves, and they obey him!” (Luke 8:22-25)

As Jesus calls people to follow His truth, a natural question arises: why should we listen to Him? There were many other rabbis (teachers) at the time who were telling people to follow their teachings. In these verses, we see Jesus continue to establish His authority.

Jesus is crossing the Lake of Galilee with His disciples, and He takes a nap. While He is sleeping, a storm arises that seems life-threatening. Some of Jesus’ disciples were fishermen, so they would have been very comfortable sailing on this lake. If they were afraid of the storm, it must have been extremely serious. They wake Jesus up and seem almost frustrated with Him, since He is sleeping and appears unconcerned about the situation.

There are many sermons on this passage, but one of the main points we see when Jesus calms the storm is the disciples’ astonishment. They say to one another, “Who then is this, that He commands even winds and water, and they obey Him?”

By this point, Jesus had performed many miracles, but seeing someone whom even nature obeys was extraordinary. The only one who controls nature is God—and the disciples would have known that. By calming the storm, Jesus is revealing who He is.

Many, especially Muslims, claim that the Gospels never say that ‘Jesus is God’ and that this idea only appears later in the New Testament. They are correct that Jesus never said explicitly, the exact words, “I am God.” However, when you look at the Gospels, you see that Jesus doesn’t need to say it explicitly. The Gospels show us things Jesus said and did that only God can do—such as forgiving sins (which Jesus does for several people), performing miracles that control nature (like calming the storm and walking on water), and raising people from the dead. When we pay attention, we can see in every Gospel multiple places where the authors demonstrate why Jesus is God.

Conclusion-

God is seeking a relationship with us, and He has revealed—and continues to reveal—how we can enter this relationship with Him. He gives us the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and people who can help us understand what a relationship with God looks like. When we hear the truth and believe it, we need to choose to act on what has been revealed to us. Many times, we get excited for a while and then forget about it. So, Jesus warns us, “Be careful how you hear,” and James reminds us “Be doers of the word and not hearers only” This is something we need to be reminded of throughout our lives because it is easy to get busy and neglect what God has shown us.