

Assignment – Sunday, May 17 2009

Lesson 25 "Authority over Natural and Super-Natural Worlds"
Luke 8:22-39

1. Read 8:22-25. In this story Jesus clearly exercises authority over the wind and the sea. What Old Testament 'sea' stories do you think might have been going through the disciples' mind? (Hint: think Noah, Moses etc.) Who commanded the seas in those stories? Talk about how these thoughts might have led the disciples to the 'fear' and 'amazement' they experienced as a result of Jesus' actions.
2. Compare the 'who is this?' questions in 7:49 and 8:25. How is Luke continuing to build this picture of Jesus as One who is no ordinary human?
3. According to His question to the disciples, 'where is your faith?' it seems that Jesus expected by this time that they should be able to trust in His supernatural abilities. Look back over the events of Luke up to this point – what in your opinion are the events that should have built faith in the disciples? Imagine yourself in their shoes – would you have had faith? Do we display faith today in the supernatural power of Jesus?
4. Read 8:26-39. This story clearly displays Jesus' authority over the spirit world. CS Lewis once said, "*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel and excessive and unhealthy interest in them.*" In your opinion which error is our society more likely to fall into? What can we learn about demons from this incident?
5. Talk about the response of the people (37). Why do you think they responded as they did? Should their fear be seen as 'arrogant contempt' or 'reverential fear' or some other kind?
6. Someone has said, "The power of Jesus to heal produces discipleship". Talk about how this is seen in the life of the man who was healed. What is the significance of him sitting at Jesus' feet (35)? What is he sent home to do? What lesson / challenge should we take from this?