
“He Went Away, Proclaiming”

#35 | Luke 8:26-39

TODD DUGARD | MAY 10, 2015

WARMING UP

1. Sunday was Mother’s Day. Share a favourite memory of your mom to get things started.

DIGGING IN

2. *Jesus saves you . . . from a messed-up past (8:26-29).*
 - What kinds of experiences come to mind when you think about a “messed-up past”? Why is it important to remind ourselves that we all have a messed-up past?
 - Pastor Todd highlighted four details from the demonized man’s life that are fairly common to all of us: (a) isolated from the gospel; (b) identity confused; (c) intimidated by God; and (d) influenced by evil. Take some time to find them in the text. How do these show up in people’s lives today? Which one do you relate with the most?
3. *Jesus saves you . . . by a miraculous healing (8:30-33).*
 - Is there anything about Jesus’ interaction with the demons that stands out to you? Something intriguing? Something confusing? Discuss your thoughts together.
 - The word “healed” in v. 36 is also translated “saved” and used repeatedly in the Bible to refer to our eternal salvation. Why do we often think of salvation in spiritual terms only? How should we think of it more broadly? Look at Isaiah 53:5b; Psalm 103:2-3; Romans 8:30; and Philippians 3:20b-21 for more perspective.
 - In what sense is salvation a past (“I have been saved”), present (“I am being saved”), and future (“I will be saved”) reality for the follower of Christ? How does all of this impact you personally?
4. *Jesus saves you . . . despite fearful reactions (8:34-37).*
 - Why do the people from the surrounding country ask Jesus to depart from them? Doesn’t it seem reasonable that they would be ecstatic about what he did for the formerly-demonized man? What is the issue?
 - “What we don’t understand, we reject and even attack.” Have you ever responded this way? About what? Have you ever been on the receiving end of this response? About what? How do you continue to pursue Christ in spite of, at times, negative reactions from others?
5. *Jesus saves you . . . to a passionate new mission (8:38-39).*
 - How are Jesus’ instructions to the man in v. 39—“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you”—fitting for each of us today? What has God done in your life that you need to share openly with others?
 - “Passionate people always tell others about the thing they’re passionate about.” What would people naturally conclude is your primary passion based on what you talk about most frequently and enthusiastically? Are you OK with this?

BREAKING OUT

6. In Christ, “we are free, we are free indeed.” What is your response to this incredible truth? Are there areas of your life that still feel shackled by sin? How can you lean in to your freedom more fully? How can your small group assist you in this?