

PASS THE TEST!

Our past experiences with Jesus should give us the faith we need to conquer current challenges.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ No professional teacher would ever test a student on lessons they haven't been taught; it would be grossly unfair. Now whether or not the students actually *learned* the lessons is a different matter and would be revealed through testing.
- ❖ We know there is no greater teacher in the universe than our Lord Jesus Christ, so let's see what He had taught His disciples before giving them the test.
- ❖ One of the lessons Jesus taught can be found in Luke 8:22-25, when He told His disciples to get into a boat and cross over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. On the way across, He fell asleep, even as a massive windstorm started to rock the boat and fill it with water. The disciples, panicked, awoke Jesus, who immediately calmed the wind and the sea, and asked His disciples, "Where is your faith?"
- ❖ And the disciples' response? Fear and amazement!
- ❖ The next lesson begins in verse 26, when they got to Gadara, which was on the other side of the sea, and their welcoming committee was a solitary man named "Legion," because of the army of demons that had possessed him. Matthew 8:32 tells us that Jesus spoke one single word: "Go." The demons were immediately cast out, and the man was instantaneously delivered.
- ❖ And the response of the dear people of Gadara? Luke 8:37 tells us, "They were seized with great fear."
- ❖ Well, so far, so bad, but let's go on to the next lesson.
- ❖ After these people urgently told Jesus to leave, He and the disciples went back across the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. Then, starting in Luke 8:43, we read the story of a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years, which brings us to a different scenario.
- ❖ This woman came to Jesus in faith. For her, all she had to do was touch the hem of His garment and she would be healed. So, she touched the hem of His garment, and guess what? She was healed!
- ❖ The disciples had just been taught a phenomenal lesson on the power of faith. And certainly, they learned again about the *One* who warrants our faith!
- ❖ This miracle happened as Jesus was walking to Jairus' house to heal his sick daughter, but as they were on the way, a messenger came to tell him it was too late; his daughter had died.
- ❖ The situation was bad before, but now it was impossible. The girl was dead. But Jesus told Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well" (Luke 8:50).
- ❖ Here was another lesson that directly counteracted the responses of the disciples in the storm and the Gadarenes' response to the delivered demoniac.
- ❖ We don't have to be great theologians to realize the same principle applies to us: If you happen to be in an impossible situation right now, don't be afraid, only believe!

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 6:1-7;
Luke 8:50, 9:1-6, 10-11; Hebrews 11:17-19

- ❖ The rest of the story tells us that Jesus continued on to Jairus' house and raised his daughter from the dead. But the lessons still weren't over.
- ❖ Some learners are good with classroom teaching alone and some need hands-on training. Jesus gave the disciples both in Luke 9:1-6. They learned the precepts, then they got the practice, preaching and healing everywhere!
- ❖ They all had a testimony. They all had a story to tell. Then, after receiving their report, Jesus repeated the lesson one more time for good measure (Luke 9:10-11). He had taught them well, so, now it was time for a test.
- ❖ For Philip, the test came in the form of a case study: "There's a big hungry crowd in front of us. We're up on a mountain and there's no food. How are we going to feed these people?" (John 6:5-6).
- ❖ And Philip immediately forgot everything he had been taught (and experienced!) and jumped right back into human mode.
- ❖ We're all going to face some situations in life where human mode simply can't help us. We have to learn how to get into miracle mode!
- ❖ Jesus' question to Philip was just a test. The Lord already knew what He was going to do to solve the problem. And the Lord already knows what He's going to do to solve our problems.
- ❖ When He comes to ask for our solutions and suggestions, it's not because He's desperate and needs our help. He wants to see where our faith lies.
- ❖ We have memory banks full of experiences that we and those around us have had with God. So, when the Lord stands before you and asks what you're going to do about the impossible situation you're facing right now, **PASS THE TEST!**
- ❖ When it's your time to be tested, what answer are you going to give the Lord? Let's Pass the Test!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. "Where is your faith?" (Lk. 8:25). Give examples of those from scripture who either passed or failed their particular test. Summarize what the test was and discuss what contributed to their success or their failure.
2. Have you been tested? If comfortable, describe the situation(s). In your opinion, did you fail or pass the test? In either case, was there anything you would have done differently, why?

PRAYER TIME




Lord, when it comes time for me to be tested, help me to PASS THE TEST!

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

 (Reminds me/Confirms)  (New idea)  (Think about)

 (Do this)  (Speaks to my heart)  (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: When you have had to take a test, what was your usual study method? Is there anything else you do beforehand to prepare yourself?