

# The Importance of One

## *Matthew 8:28-34 / Luke 8:26-40*

Okay, welcome back and here we go. Today we will be reading Matthew, but working out of Luke, meaning we will keep continuity but look deeper.

### ***Matthew 8:28-34 & Luke 8:26-40***

- 1) What stands out to you?

We have several things going on here, but there is probably one glaring seemingly evident discrepancy --- the two men in Matthew and the one in Luke and Mark. They don't disagree, rather they show emphasis on Jesus' power. And we will eventually do a comprehensive study on Matthew 8:29 highlighting Jesus's power and authority.

### ***Luke 8:26-40***

- 2) What can we learn about demons here?

If anything, this brings into focus the reality of the spiritual realm: a) we learn they can dwell in humans; b) they know their ultimate fate and they are afraid of it; c) they can give humans strange strength; and d) animals can also host them, however, in this case, it destroyed them.

### ***Luke 8:26 & 8:37***

Jesus got in a boat, crossed a stormy sea, healed and then departed.

- 3) What can we learn from this?

We know the stories about leaving the 99 for the 1. Jesus could have stayed and taught the multitudes. He had a crowd. Why leave? Something I try to instill here is ----- *it's the individual*.

My ministry is one person at a time. How many transformations have we seen here!

- 4) Why do we discount some people?

I think just as the disciples looked at the storm, we also look at the storms.

How may people's lives look like storms and chaos that you would just as soon not wade into? Be honest. Yet, it is in these places of chaos that we can see God's greatest miracles. My miracle came out of chaos. Maybe yours did too.

**Luke 8:34-37**

5) Why didn't people embrace Jesus?

You know, these people were stuck in fear and loss. This was a huge financial loss for them. Some people infer that we have to accept losing worldly possessions for salvation. But, really we do not have to lose possessions. They just have to lose their importance.

But back to the *Importance of One*.

**Luke 8:38-40**

Later in Matthew, we are going to see Jesus return to Decapolis and when He does, the entire town will be waiting! Wow.

6) How important were the one of two people who influenced big change in you?

Imagine if Jesus had not crossed the lake for the two men. What is also inferred by Mark and Luke is, only one actually became an active witness.

7) Who or what was the biggest most unexpected change you've seen in yourself or another?

Let's close by praying that God highlights ONE for us and that we are willing to cross the sea and confront odds to witness with our lives!