

Finding Jesus in Desperate Times
Luke 8:22-56

Peter Roebbelen
December 6, 2009



Desperate Times

- **How do we get through?**
- **How do we help others?**
- **Where does our faith fit?**
- **What's God up to?**

*In their peril their courage melted away.
They reeled and staggered like drunken men;
They were at their wits' end.*

Psalm 107:26-27

Four Stories of Desperation

- I. The Disciples in a boat caught in the storm (22-25)**
- II. The Man from the tombs possessed by demons (26-39)**
- III. The Woman in the crowd with a chronic illness (43-48)**
- IV. The Father from the synagogue with a dying daughter (40-42, 49-56)**

Desperate Circumstances...

- **Are a great equalizer.**
- **Bring us to Jesus.**
- **Expose our faith.**
- **Teach us about the curious relationship between faith and salvation.**
- **Reveal Jesus as Lord.**

Jesus is Lord over nature.

Jesus is Lord over the demonic.

Jesus is Lord over sickness.

Jesus is Lord over death.

Jesus can handle our desperate times.

Things to Think About:

Recall a desperate time in your life. How did you manage to get through it? What did you learn?

What difficult or desperate circumstances do you find yourself in right now? What are you learning about your faith? What are you learning about Jesus?

Is the difficult time drawing you closer to Jesus or becoming a barrier between you and Jesus? Explain.

Why did the disciples become filled with fear even though they had Jesus right in the boat with them?

Why do you think Jesus told the Gerasene man to share his story (v.39) and told the parents of the resurrected girl not to tell anyone (v. 56)?

The bleeding woman broke many laws (she was not allowed to touch others; she should have been wearing a cloth to signify her uncleanness) to get to Jesus, yet Jesus does not condemn her as a law-breaker but commends her as a daughter of great faith. How is that possible?
