

Introduction

Who is Jesus? That is the question Jesus's disciples asked after He calmed the wind and waves ([Luke 8:25](#)). This is the question that the Pharisees asked when Jesus forgave the sinful woman ([Luke 7:49](#)) and the paralytic man ([Luke 5:21](#)).

This question will continue to be asked throughout the Gospel of Luke. It is important that you know the answer to this question. “**Who** is Jesus” is the basis of our faith. [Luke 8:40-9:17](#) shows us again Jesus's authority over illness, death, demons, and nature. **Jesus is the eternal God who came from heaven.**

Healing and resurrection

[Luke 8:40–42](#) “40 Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. 41 And there came a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue. And falling at Jesus' feet, he implored him to come to his house, 42 for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As Jesus went, the people pressed around him.”

What problem did Jairus bring to Jesus? [Luke 8:42](#) “... he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying ...”

- The ruler of the synagogue was responsible for planning synagogue services. The attendant ([Luke 4:20](#)) served in the service.

[Luke 8:43–44](#) “43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. 44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.”

What illness did the woman have for twelve years? [Luke 8:43](#) “... a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years ...”

- This woman would have been considered ceremonially unclean ([Lev 15:25](#)). Whoever touched the woman or her things or whoever was touched by her would be unclean the rest of the day ([Lev 15:21-23, 27](#)).

[Luke 8:45–46](#) “45 And Jesus said, “Who was it that touched me?” When all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!” 46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me.””

How did Jesus know that someone had touched Him? [Luke 8:46](#) “... I perceive that power has gone out from me.” Luke sometimes describes Jesus's miracles of healing as power. [Luke 5:17](#)

“... And the power of the Lord was with him to heal.” [Luke 6:19](#) “... power came out from him and healed them all.”

[Luke 8:47–48](#) “47 And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. 48 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.””

Why did Jesus say the woman had been healed? [Luke 8:48](#) “... your faith has made you well ...” She was healed because of her faith, but she was healed by Jesus’s power.

[Luke 8:49–51](#) “49 While he was still speaking, someone from the ruler’s house came and said, “Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more.” 50 But Jesus on hearing this answered him, “Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.” 51 And when he came to the house, he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.”

What happened to Jairus’s daughter before Jesus arrived? [Luke 8:49](#) “... someone from the ruler’s house came and said, “Your daughter is dead ...””

Jesus said the girl would be well. *What did He say (vs 50) the family should do?* [Luke 8:50](#) “... Do not fear; only believe, and she will be well.”

- This is the same content as what Jesus said to the woman in [Luke 8:48](#) “... Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace.””

Who did Jesus take into the house with Him? [Luke 8:51](#) “... he allowed no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child.”

- These were the same three disciples that Jesus took up the mountain of Transfiguration ([Luke 9:28](#)) and to pray with Him in the garden before His arrest ([Matt 26:37](#)).

[Luke 8:52–56](#) “52 And all were weeping and mourning for her, but he said, “Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping.” 53 And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. 54 But taking her by the hand he called, saying, “Child, arise.” 55 And her spirit returned, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat. 56 And her parents were amazed, but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.”

What did Jesus do for the girl who had died? [Luke 8:54–55](#) “But taking her by the hand he called, saying, “Child, arise.” 55 And her spirit returned, and she got up at once ...”

Summary: Jesus performed two miracles on unclean people. When people come into contact with unclean people, they become unclean. When Jesus comes into contact with unclean people, they become clean.

Reflection: When you come to know Jesus, He cleanses you from sin. [Titus 3:4-6](#) “4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,” [1 Corinthians 6:11](#) “11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

Sending the twelve

[Luke 9:1-2](#) “1 And he called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.”

What did Jesus give to the twelve? [Luke 9:1](#) “... gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,”

- This is what Jesus has been doing in the previous chapters - healing people and driving out demons.

What did Jesus commission them to do? [Luke 9:2](#) “and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.”

- Jesus previously said this the purpose for which He was sent. [Luke 4:43](#) “... I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” Jesus is sending them to do what He has already been doing.

[Luke 9:3-6](#) “3 And he said to them, “Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money; and do not have two tunics. 4 And whatever house you enter, stay there, and from there depart. 5 And wherever they do not receive you, when you leave that town shake off the dust from your feet as a testimony against them.” 6 And they departed and went through the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”

Why did Jesus tell the disciples to take so little with them? They were to be completely dependent upon God for provision and upon people for hospitality.

What did the disciples do in the villages they visited? [Luke 9:6](#) “... preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.”

- Preaching the gospel is equated with proclaiming the kingdom of God in verse 2.

Summary: This is a preview of the Great Commission. Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the gospel and heal. It is probably significant that Jesus did not mention healing in [Matt 28:18-20](#) or [Acts 1:8](#). The post-resurrection commission was given to the apostles to pass on to the church. That is distinct from apostolic authority described here.

Response: It is also significant that the Great Commission was not a one-time command. Jesus's ministry and discipleship prepared the way for the Great Commission. Ultimately, we are commissioned to imitate the ministry of Jesus as far as God enables us.

Herod's questions

[Luke 9:7-9](#) “7 Now Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, 8 by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen. 9 Herod said, “John* I beheaded, but who is this about whom I hear such things?” And he sought to see him.”

Who did some people say Jesus was? [Luke 9:7-8](#) “... it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, 8 by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the prophets of old had risen.”

- Herod the tetrarch is Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great. Herod the Great was the ruler who killed the children in Bethlehem after hearing of Jesus's birth. Herod Antipas had beheaded John the Baptist. Herod eventually got to see Jesus. Jesus appeared before him in court before His crucifixion ([Luke 23:7-8](#)).

Feeding the five thousand

[Luke 9:10-11](#) “10 On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida. 11 When the crowds learned it, they followed him, and he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.”

What did Jesus do when the crowds followed Him and the disciples? [Luke 9:11](#) “... he welcomed them and spoke to them of the kingdom of God and cured those who had need of healing.”

- This is the same commission that Jesus gave to His disciples.

[Luke 9:12-15](#) “12 Now the day began to wear away, and the twelve came and said to him, “Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.” 13 But he said to them, “You give them something to eat.” They said, “We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.” 14 For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, “Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.” 15 And they did so, and had them all sit down.”

How many people were present in the crowd? [Luke 9:14](#) “For there were about five thousand men ...”

- Luke's term (ἀνὴρ) refers to males. Matthew clarifies that this number does not include women and children ([Matt 14:21](#)).

[Luke 9:16-17](#) “16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. 17 And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.”

How did Jesus provide food for the crowd? [Luke 9:16](#) “16 And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd.”

- This event parallels God providing manna (bread from heaven) for Israel in the wilderness. Moses is a shadow of Jesus. The Gospel of John makes this connection explicit ([John 6](#)).
- This is the only miracle besides the resurrection that is included in all four Gospels. This miracle would have spread Jesus's fame more than most because so many were involved. This miracle also confirmed for many people that Jesus was the one sent to lead Israel as Moses had (so they thought).

Summary: Jesus's miracles were done to confirm His message. He preached the gospel of the kingdom of God. That is, those who have faith *in Him* are saved. The miracles gave confirmation to that message.

Conclusion

How should this passage shape our lives?

Belief - Jesus is God

First, this passage shapes what we **believe** about Jesus. Many people deny that Jesus is God. **Mormons** say that Jesus was the oldest son of God, but was a son just as we are all God's children (no distinction). **Jehovah's Witnesses** claim that Jesus was God's first creation, through whom He created everything else. They say Jesus is divine, but not God. **Muslims** claim that Jesus was a great prophet; however, they deny that Jesus is God.

Jesus's miracles **alone** do not prove that He is God. Even false prophets performed miracles. However, Jesus's miracles **confirm** His deity when viewed with the rest of His life. Jesus claimed to be God. He said He was eternal, He could forgive sins, He had unlimited authority, He controlled life and death, etc. Jesus's miracles give those claims credit. However, His **resurrection** confirms His deity (cf. [Rom 1:4](#)). Jesus's resurrection has an enormous amount of firsthand (eyewitness) evidence. Jesus's resurrection was impossible without **either** God vindicating Jesus's message **or** Jesus vindicating His own message.

Response - evangelism

Second, the passage teaches how we as believers should live under Jesus's deity. If you believe that Jesus is God and you devote yourself to Him in faith, then you should **tell others the message of the gospel**. Even if we are not given authority to **heal** people, we can tell people

of Jesus's miracles in Scripture, ranging from healing to resurrection. Most importantly, the message of the gospel is that Jesus is the eternal God who lived and died to atone for the sins of His people, those who have faith in Him.

One danger that has overtaken American churches is the belief that sharing the gospel is the responsibility of the gathered church. We do not see a pattern in Scripture of believers and unbelievers gathering as a "church" so the pastor can proclaim the gospel to unbelievers. We also do not see in Scripture the idea that community events, such as Fall Festival, are the means by which the gospel should be proclaimed. Both of those examples are **good**. Pastors should proclaim the gospel to the church. Churches can proclaim the gospel at community events. However, if **both** of those things are happening, but individual church members are not proclaiming the gospel when they leave, then we are submitting to Jesus's deity **only** in our church life. If He is God in our daily life, then we should share the gospel in our daily life.