

## [Virtue is Gone] / Luke 7:36 – 8:56

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is gathering brand new details from Luke as we travel some familiar Scriptural ground. This synoptic Gospel account contains many wonderful new breakthroughs for our minds and hearts to gather and consider. The record of the young man who was raised from the dead by the Lord Jesus Christ to comfort his widowed mother's broken heart in our previous report is only found in Luke's Gospel. If you have not read our last report from Luke and, indeed, all ten previous reports from this book of the Bible, then I highly suggest you go back and do so now.

In this report, we're going to a dinner party with Jesus - and it won't be a dull affair. Wherever we go with Jesus, there is never a boring moment. Jesus denounces the Pharisees with blistering condemnation. Personally, I do not consider the following account to be a friendly invitation from the beginning - and I believe Jesus knew that. The Pharisee who invited Him to dinner didn't consider Him a good match for the group. I doubt anyone even wanted Jesus around under any circumstances, but I digress - the point of this event was to spy on Jesus in a casual and relaxed atmosphere. They were planning an attempt to confuse Him so they could entangle Him in His speech. So, let's read the record of what happened very carefully....

### VII

***36 And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.***

***37 And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,***

~ Luke doesn't make any bones about this woman being a sinner; but she has been saved now by the grace of God – and that changed her heart – and that change of heart changed the actions and motives in her life! She waited until Jesus had His food in front of Him - and He was reclining, as they did in that day, and then she brings out the box. It's shocking she

would even be there. I can only picture her hanging around these Pharisees. They likely employed her regularly. In Israel, in that day, if you had house guests your neighbor would know all about your business, too. Everyone from every side would have been hanging around to see what you served, how the guests acted and how you responded. Well, here comes Mary with a box of oil and she's crying. She is weeping and wants to break out her oil - because she has been forgiven of her sins, friends! The Pharisee's can no longer take that away from her....

***38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.***

***39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.***

***40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.***

***41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.***

***42 And when they had nothing to pay, he forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?***

***43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.***

***44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.***

~ That Pharisee in verse thirty-nine is a hypocrite who wouldn't have given her the time of day in public out on the street. The Pharisee thought that if Jesus were a prophet, He would have known what kind of woman this was

and would have wanted nothing to do with such a wretched sinner. The following conversation is interesting; it's another exclusive parable accounted for only by Dr. Luke. Jesus had entirely ignored this woman altogether until now. Well, Jesus is looking at her as He speaks to Simon. Jesus isn't looking in Simon's direction as He speaks to him. Simon did not think Jesus knew what this woman was all about. What happens next certainly rubbed old man Simon the wrong way! Well, Jesus asks if Simon sees her – and, of course, Simon saw her there....

***45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.***

***46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.***

~ Jesus points out that His host wasn't even offering Him the common courtesies of the day. This is how we know for sure the invitation that was extended to Jesus to come to dinner was not a friendly gesture – it was a spy mission designed by the religious rulers. We already know they want to kill Him. This is a huge area of Christian Tragedy today; many need some Emily Post etiquette books to teach them how to act at the dinner table. Most don't have good manners in the home or at the table. So, to be perfectly clear; Jesus just deeply insulted His host! I wonder how many "hosts" down here He is going to insult when He gets to our house? ~

***47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.***

***48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.***

~ And that, my friend, should have blanched this Pharisee's soul. A sinner off the street knew she had no chance in life; except and until now - because the Lord has forgiven her. What she needed was forgiveness - not condemnation. We all need mercy like that. The Pharisee didn't think he was a sinner; she knew she was. He had no intention of ever asking for forgiveness of His sins; primarily because he was still professing to be following the Mosaic System of Levitical Law when he was an abject liar.

May I say that the spiritual mop meets the spiritual sticky mess on the bathroom floor in this section of Scripture.

Jesus tells this hypocritical Pharisee, at his own dinner table, that by the standards in Heaven this sinner in front of him was accepted of God - but he wasn't. We are talking about a street level prostitute that has come to Christ for salvation being esteemed more highly by God than the Jewish Pharisee religious leader. There are MANY people reading this so-called safari who believe they are saved - but they aren't - and they never have been. I can only pray they will be. They love to play church, but it means absolutely nothing in their day to day lives. This dinner conversation was a thrilling experience that day for the apostles....

***49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?***

***50 And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.***

~ The woman had no works to "go in peace" with - and Jesus knew that; and she knew that He knew that - but she trusted Him by faith, nonetheless. She simply confessed and asked for forgiveness. She didn't play games and justify what she would do or not do - and she didn't argue with Jesus that He needed more love and understanding in His heart. That would have revealed that she was insincere. I'm sure this Pharisee hypocrite was wondering why Jesus was being so hurtful - and even hateful - to her because that's what he perceived. This is a tremendous Biblical account, my beloved....

## VIII

***1 And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,***

***2 And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils,***

***3 And Joanna the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.***

~ Jesus continues His ministry here as many people turn to Him and, finally, someone offers SUBSTANCE for Him and His apostles. Much of the 'substance' seems to have come from very high places. I'm not sure I want to tackle the subject of Herod's steward bringing Jesus provision for His needs in this Spiritual Safari. I cannot find any satisfactory commentary concerning this at all. This is one section of Scripture that I am simply going to have to continue to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment over. I hope you will, too - because we both desperately need it....

***4 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:***

***5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.***

***6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.***

***7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.***

***8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

***9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?***

***10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.***

***11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.***

**12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.**

**13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.**

**14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.**

**15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**

**16 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.**

**17 For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.**

**18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.**

**19 Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press.**

**20 And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee.**

**21 And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.**

**22 Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.**

**23 But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.**

**24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.**

**25 And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.**

~ Well, that's the question I ask you, my safari readers: where is your faith? We took this entire section of Scripture, with the parables of the sower and the lighted candle up and examined them so thoroughly and completely between our consideration of Matthew and Mark, that we will not even pause to consider them again on this leg of our safari. I do want to say this about the stilling of the waves that we have seen before, though. It's fine to ask Jesus to still the winds blowing out of control and destroying your life – BUT – remember this: if you ask Him to calm your stormy sea, He will, in turn, ask you, "where is your faith?" Are you prepared for that, my Christian friends? This is where the Bible gets real. This is where many people part ways with the Lord Jesus Christ, too....

**26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.**

~ Well, we arrived on these shores in our so-called safari before also with both Matthew and Mark - but this record takes us a little deeper than we have had in the other accounts. Apparently, there were two men, but Luke singles only one out; and he does so for a very definite purpose. See, Luke is a doctor, and we need to provide the board of directors with a detailed analysis of this satanic case. From the scientific doctoral viewpoint, this insight Luke lays out is more than remarkable. Our third trip to Gad will be

our last, thankfully. Matthew's account was somewhat bland and passive; Mark's was emotional and spectacular, actually. This one should blanch your soul.

The first miracle we considered in Luke involved demon possession. Jesus made it clear at that time, in the fourth chapter of this Gospel, that demonism and diseases are different. Most people relegate "demons" to the category of ghosts, goblins and gnomes. Most people just want to pass off demonism without thoughtful consideration; and for good reason – it's frightening! It disturbs men mentally, spiritually and physically. The realization of demonism can be the end of a human life and the eternal doom of a soul. Demons are synonymous with unclean spirits, as we shall soon see. What we have presented in this Gospel is one of the worst cases imaginable.

Demon possession is widely acknowledged in Hollywood - but they just laugh about it. They dress it up, glorify it and promote it. We are seeing an epidemic resurgence of satanic activity these days – I just don't think that can be denied. It is very difficult to explain away the awful things happening in our contemporary society without Satan. This Spiritual Safari doesn't visit Fantasy Land at Disney World and we don't get off on rabbit trails citing nursery rhymes. Our safari is poised to destroy the mythical Shangri-La and drive out. This is where things get truly weird on safari.

The tribe of Gadara did not cross over Jordan with Joshua when they should have, you will recall. They stayed on the other side. We will later be given the value of this incident by Jesus Himself as He tells this man to return to his own house and show the great things God had done unto him. Showing those things is the overall purpose of these reports. The possessed man we are looking at had been in this condition for a very long time. He didn't wear any clothes; and there is a very definite and distinct relationship to nudity and demon possession. This man dwelt among the tombs – naked – in a cave. Here we also meet the first cave man, by the way! This man's personality was degraded and debased and destroyed. The man had no will of his own. He was possessed by Satan, friends....



***27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.***

***28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.***

~ ***The demons*** recognized Jesus because demons know Jesus when they see Him. The apostle says they tremble at His sight. We are talking about the enemies of God, and they are to be judged; and if you don't like that, then YOU will be judged. I'm not going to be dogmatic, but let's assume that the physical world has something in it that is not revealed. Scientists at one time named a newly discovered just-such-a-something the atom. Well, an awareness and progressing comprehension of the atom has really had an impact on world history. To deny there are no spiritual elements permeating our lives and minds is gullible and naive.

To our previous point, we should note that angels are not revealed. There are two classes of angels: those that are with God – and those that fell with Satan. Gentile sacrifice throughout history has always been to demons; and performed in a demonic atmosphere, if you will. Homer speaks of diemons and Theos; as in: God and demons are one in the same. If you are writing your own mythology, then why not have a good demon-god deity mix thrown in? It's been done before. Empedocles, the Greek philosopher took that position. When we find idolatry throughout the ages, we find demonism behind it. I could overwhelm you with detail - but - let's just move on.

There was an outbreak of demonism when Christ came to this earth the first time - and Satan has been the prince of the power of the air ever since. All of the modern false religions unwittingly incorporate demonism - and the demons LOVE it! The love demon loves everything until Christ is left sitting in the parking lot. Demons control these churchy people until it becomes impossible for them to function in any meaningful capacity. Frightful and terrifying words and utterances form on their lips. They may call it a healing prayer act, for example, but it is a soul-destroying mission

being completed according to Satan's direction. This is where mothers drown their children in a bathtub; and all the children have Biblical names. Children kill their parents; husbands kill their wives – senseless religion.

These people have no idea why they do the things they do. Notice the demon's name is Legion and, in the Roman army, a 'legion' was three thousand to six thousand. Basically, an evil mob possessed this man! The 'deep' that the demons beseech Jesus not to send them into is the bottomless pit of the abyss. The other fallen angels are incarcerated there at the time in which we are studying. Jude has all the sordid details we need to completely freak our socks off.

These demons desire to be incarnate in a person. When a demon has gone out of a man, he will wander, but he will come back. That's what Jesus says. The demons are willing to go into an animal herd rather than the abyss. The pigs would rather be dead than have the demons! That's quite a conflict. A marvelous transformation of life took place at that precise moment. This is what we call a transformed life in our Spiritual Safari. So, I think we have taken demonism as far as we need to. As your safari guide, you can trust me when I say I could write about demonism until you could not bear to read it anymore. We have some frightful, ugly things happening today in our world....

***29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)***

***30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.***

***31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.***

***32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.***

***33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.***

***34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country.***

***35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.***

***36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.***

***37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.***

***38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying,***

***39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.***

***40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.***

***41 And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagoge: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:***

***42 For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.***

***43 And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,***

***44 Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.***

***45 And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?***

***46 And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.***

***47 And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.***

***48 And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.***

***49 While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.***

***50 But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.***

***51 And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.***

***52 And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.***

***53 And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.***

***54 And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.***

***55 And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.***

***56 And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.***

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with the woman being healed and the daughter being raised from the dead. The doctor is the only Gospel writer that gave us two people back from the dead. That's why he is called Dr. Luke, by the way. He actually had a sign gift, but it wasn't raising the dead! We need to have some respect for these Scriptures. This has been our third and final trip through this section of Holy Writ, and I thank God for that - and we're just going to move on from here. We will examine chapter nine in our next report; may God richly bless you all for reading these reports. Reports that are written just for you ~

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