

Luke 8.22-9.50: structure and themes

1. Who is Jesus? 2. What is a "disciple"?

Crossing the lake

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. **He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"**

Expelling "legion"

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had **demons** met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, **Jesus, Son of the Most High God?** I beg you, do not torment me"-- for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the **demon** into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many **demons** had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the **demons** begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the **demons** came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the **demons** had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by **demons** had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the **demons** had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and **declare how much God has done for you.**" So he went away, **proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.**

Healing two "daughters"

Now when Jesus returned, the **crowd** welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus' feet and begged him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, who was dying. As he went, the **crowds** pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years; and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his clothes, and immediately her hemorrhage stopped. Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "**Master**, the **crowds** surround you and press in on you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; for I noticed that power had gone out from me." When the woman saw that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, someone came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer." When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not fear.

Only believe, and she will be saved." When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James, and the child's father and mother. They were all weeping and wailing for her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he directed them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded; but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

Jesus gives power/authority to the Twelve

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money--not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

The Twelve go out while Herod is perplexed

They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere. Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. **Herod said, "John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?"** And he tried to see him. On their return the apostles told Jesus all they had done. He took them with him and withdrew privately to a city called Bethsaida. When the **crowds** found out about it, they followed him; and he welcomed them, and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed to be cured.

Feeding the crowd

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the **crowd** away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place." 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." For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the **crowd**. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

Who do you say I am?

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "**Who do the crowds say that I am?"** They answered, "**John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.**" He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God."** He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, "**The Human One must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.**"

The cost of discipleship

Then he said to them all, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain

the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them **the Human One** will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

The Transfiguration

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, **they saw his glory** and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "**Master**, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah"--not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. **Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"** When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. **And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.**

The disciples' failure to exorcise a demon

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great **crowd** met him. Just then a man from the **crowd** shouted, "**Teacher**, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. **I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.**" Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." While he was coming, the **demon** dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

First "passion portent": the disciples' failure to understand

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: **The Human One is going to be betrayed into human hands.**" **But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.**

Who's the greatest? Who is with us?: the disciples' failure at equity and inclusion

An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, **and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest.** John answered, "**Master**, we saw someone casting out **demons** in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." **But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you."**