

# Gospel of Luke

House Group Notes for Luke 8:1-25 based upon sermon series



BISHOP RIDLEY  
CHURCH,  
THE GREEN,  
WELLING,  
KENT DA16 2PG

“THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU” LUKE 1: 35

## What does this Kingdom of God look like?

Throughout chapter 8 Jesus is revealing more of the characteristics of the Kingdom and explores in the parable of the sower, the range of responses we find in Luke and in the world today. What are the key themes of Jesus' Gospel of the Kingdom we have discovered so far in Luke?

## Responding to the Kingdom!

Jesus noticed four ways in which people respond when they hear the Gospel. Some refuse the offer outright straight away (v12). Some

accept the offer in the beginning but find themselves rejecting it later when things get tough (v13). Some accept the offer but in the struggles or pleasures of life end up letting it go again (v14). Some, take the Gospel to heart and keep it and persevere and live it (v15). Can you find examples of each in Luke?

## Light, family, storms, evil, sickness and death!

At first sight, this is a rather odd collection of accounts to put together. So what is Jesus and Luke trying to show us? The Kingdom is so amazing it cannot be hidden. Family, especially in first-

century Palestinian culture, was immensely valuable – the Kingdom is even more valuable than family (how would you receive this if you were poor, outcast, marginalised and had longed for the inclusiveness of family for so long?). The Kingdom is a place where God dwells with man and sickness and death and crying no longer have a place (see Rev.21:3,4). Jesus says this Kingdom is breaking in: God is drawing creation towards becoming what He had always intended it to be. Is this “Good News?” Why and how?

## Who is Jesus?

After Jesus calms the storm, the disciples ask: “Who is this” He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?” That must have freaked them out! The answer: Jesus is someone in authority over creation, over sickness, over evil, over death! Jesus is King in this new Kingdom!

## DISCUSS FURTHER

Is it true to say, “Jesus teaching is amazing in what it offers and demanding in what it requires of us”? If so, how?

The disciples witness all these things as part of their training. At the beginning of chapter 9 Jesus sends them out to do the same stuff! How sure of themselves do you think they were? Are we also called to do the same things? Does that ‘freak you out’?

## LUKE 8:1-25

**Filled with the Holy Spirit  
Jesus is teaching and healing  
the sick...****The Parable of the Sower**

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, <sup>2</sup> and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; <sup>3</sup> Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. <sup>4</sup> While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: <sup>5</sup> "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. <sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant. <sup>10</sup> He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand." <sup>11</sup> "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. <sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <sup>13</sup> Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. <sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. <sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. <sup>16</sup> "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. <sup>17</sup> For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into

the open. <sup>18</sup> Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them." <sup>19</sup> Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. <sup>20</sup> Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." <sup>21</sup> He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice." <sup>22</sup> One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. <sup>23</sup> As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. <sup>24</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. <sup>25</sup> "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."."

