

WEEK 14:

SCARIER THAN DISEASE, DEATH & STORMS

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 7:1-17 and 8:22-25

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Proverbs 1:7, Psalm 56:3-4 and 62, Mark 5:34-41

It was the father of modern psychiatry, Sigmund Freud, who once espoused the theory that people invent religion out of a fear of nature. We feel helpless before an earthquake, a flood, or a ravaging disease. So, said Freud, we invent a God who has power over the earthquake, flood and disease... [Yet] In the power of Christ [the disciples] met something more frightening than they had ever met in nature... We wonder what Freud would have said about that. Why would the disciples invent a God [who] was more terrifying than the forces of nature that provoked them to invent a god in the first place? We can understand it if people invented... a god who brought only comfort. But why a god more scary than the earthquake?

- R.C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God*

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 7:1-10. Imagine the desperation this centurion has for his beloved servant. Have you ever longed for the spiritual or physical healing of a loved one? What kinds of thoughts and emotions are likely running through the centurion's mind?

Read Luke 7:11-17. What information does the text give us about this woman who's lost her son? What kinds of thoughts and emotions is she likely experiencing?

Read Luke 8:22-25. What kind of a storm would cause fear for expert fishermen? When have you been seized by fear in your life? What things about yourself and the world are you aware of in fearful situations that you might not think about otherwise?

Read Luke 7:4 and 6. What are the differences between the centurion's opinion of himself and the elders' opinion of him? Why is it tempting to put stock in people's opinions of us?

Read Luke 7:16 and 8:25. Why do the crowd and the disciples react with fear to Jesus' miraculous healing and calming the storm?

What other response do they have to Jesus?

How is Jesus' control over death, disease and storms different than our general cultural view of Jesus? In what ways have you adopted a "domesticated" view of Jesus? Why?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

What kind of things cause fear in your life? What are different kinds of fear you've experienced?



Read Luke 7:1-17 and 8:22-25. All three interactions depict Jesus engaging people in painful, stressful circumstances. Why do pain and stress reveal our functional beliefs and saviors?

Read Luke 7:16 and 8:25. In both of these situations, people respond to Jesus with both fear and worship. What happens if people fear Jesus without worshipping Him or worship Jesus without fearing Him?



Read Luke 8:22-25 and Mark 4:35-41. In Mark's account he records that the disciples go from fear of the storm to great fear after Jesus calms the storm. Why is Jesus' unbridled power unsettling?

Read Psalm 56:3-4 and 1 Peter 5:6-7. How does fully understanding Jesus' power and the gospel alleviate stress, anxiety and fear?

