

Weekly Scripture and Sermon Study: History & Context Guide Luke 8:1-3

History, Culture, & Context

In this section of Luke, we read about Jesus' ministry of proclaiming the Good News about the Kingdom of God. As Jesus was visiting the nearby towns and villages, He was accompanied by the twelve disciples as well as women He had cured.



“Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.” These women gave of their resources and helped to finance Jesus’ ministry.

In ancient Jewish culture, women did not learn from rabbis nor were they able to study the Torah (some philosophic schools allowed women to study). The New Interpreter’s Study Bible commentary explains, “Luke portrays Jesus as being accompanied by the twelve (who are perhaps expected to be present; see Luke 6:12-16) and a number of women. The latter come in for special development, for they model Jesus’ own graciousness, mirror Jesus’ service toward others, and exemplify for others his message regarding faith and wealth. They not only hear but also act on the word of God (see Luke 8:21)!”

Questions to Consider

1. What is the significance of the women listed in Luke 8:1-3? How did they support Jesus’ ministry?
2. What do these verses teach us about Jesus’ ministry?
3. What exactly is the “...Good News about the Kingdom of God” that Jesus preached about in this section of Luke? How can we preach/teach this message today?
4. Read Galatians 3:25-29. What do you think is Paul’s main point? How does this relate to Luke 8:1-3?