

Luke 8:26-39

Luke 8:26-39 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time 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 desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him.

31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. 34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and 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. 36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

I. The demon-possessed man

- A. Impossible to control**
- B. Driven out of all human society**
- C. Lives among dead corpses**
- D. In a permanent state of uncleanness**
- E. And yet, Jesus sought him out!!**

II. Jesus and His power

A. He is master of time and place

- 1. He had just earlier slept through most of a raging storm, and then stopped the tempest by rebuking it.**
- 2. Then He landed on the shore of Galilee just as this man walked by**
- 3. Just a coincidence?**
- 4. Are there any coincidences with God?**
 - a) We may not see or understand all the actions of God's providence**
 - b) But we know he works all things together for good to those who love Him - Rom 8:28**
- 5. If Jesus was in complete control of these circumstances it leads to a host of other questions?**
 - a) Did Jesus sleep just long enough not to miss His anticipated appointment with the demoniac?**
 - b) Was the raging tempest, followed by instantaneous calm, itself a device used by Jesus to capture the demoniac's attention and bring him to the shore where He could be helped by the Lord?**

B. He has command over all evil spiritual forces

- 1. They bow before Him**

- 2. He commands them, hears entreaty from them, and gives or refuses them permission to act**
- 3. This did not mean he was the ruler of the demons (Luke 11:14-20)**
- 4. It meant He was more powerful than the ruler of the demons**

C. He can handle our problems, too

III. The demons

A. Their recognition of Jesus

- 1. He was the Son of the Highest**
- 2. He could torment them**
- 3. He could send them into the abyss**
- 4. He could send them into the swine**
- 5. The demons believe and tremble (Jam. 2:19)**

B. There were many

- 1. Legion**
- 2. At least 2000 pigs were possessed (Mark 5:13)**
- 3. How did there come to be that many?**
 - a) Luke 11:24-26**
 - b) He must have had many demons removed that came back with their friends**
 - c) We cannot deal with our spiritual problems without Jesus**
 - d) We cannot just get rid of sin, we must replace sin with a life devoted to Jesus**

IV. The pigs

A. Unclean animals – there should not have been a herd of pigs in Israel

B. A large herd

C. Unfortunate creatures

D. Under the influence of the demons, they destroyed themselves

V. The people of Gerasa

A. The herdsmen saw the whole thing

1. They were witnesses of a divine miracle

2. They reported it in the town

B. The townspeople feared him

1. They verified the report of the herdsmen themselves

2. The man was healed, the healer was present

C. But they wanted Him to leave – WHY?

1. They considered their property more valuable than a man's wellbeing?

2. They considered him a trouble maker?

3. They were afraid that he may render further judgment on them?

VI. The healed man

A. Totally changed

1. Clothed

2. In his right mind

B. Sitting at Jesus' feet

C. He longed to be with Jesus

D. Jesus commissioned him to preach in his hometown

E. He would have been a very effective witness for Christ

F. When we are healed by Jesus, it is the same with us

VII. Conclusion: What about Us?

A. Do we have any problems as big as this man's?

- 1. We may be dealing with the consequences of sin**
- 2. We may be dealing with consequences of others' sins**
- 3. We may be lonely**
- 4. We may be outcast from society**
- 5. We may have a legion of smaller problems**
- 6. We may have severe emotional problems**

B. Will our problems be any problem for this Jesus?

- 1. He has the solution**
- 2. He has the power**
- 3. If our problems could talk, what would they say about Jesus?**

C. Those who have been helped by Jesus, are we...?

- 1. Sitting at His feet, learning of Him**
- 2. Begging to be with Him in close fellowship**
- 3. Declaring to others how much Jesus has done for us**

D. Will we

- 1. Bring our problems to Jesus because we want to change and He can help us?**
- 2. Or ask Him to leave because we do not want to change?**

E. Invitation