

JESUS POWER OVER DEMONS Text: Luke 8:26-40

Setting the Captives Free

Introduction:

1. **We See 3 Realms meet in this incident:**
 - a. the evil realm of demonic spirits,
 - b. the visible realm of human experience,
 - c. the divine realm of God's control.
2. **We See 3 Spiritual forces that battle within this man...**
 - a. The Demonic spirits that torment him...
 - b. His Human Spirit under demonic control...
 - c. and God's Spirit that casts out the demons to set him free
3. **We See 3 Reactions to this supernatural miracle...**
 - a. The Reactions of the Demons...
 - b. The Reaction of the Townspeople...
 - c. The Reaction of the Man set free by Christ.

Ultimately We See What Satan will do with a life and what Jesus can do with a life.

I. THE MIRACLE (v.26–33)

A. THE TORMENTED MAN (v.26–29) [DISPLAY MAP]

1. **POSSESSED: Overpowered and Driven by Demons into the Wilderness**
2. **ALIENATED He lives in the tombs**, probably caverns or caves in the mountain
He's without clothes and without a home.
3. **UNCONTROLLABLE: bound w/ chains** he has demonic strength to break them
4. **TORMENTED: Mk 5:5 Night & Day he cried out**, Cutting Himself with sharp stones
5. **AFRAID: When He Saw Jesus He Cried Out and Fell Down Before Him (v.28)**

B. THE DEMONS THAT POSSESSED HIM (v.30–31)

1. **Jesus asks Him—WHAT IS YOUR NAME?**
 - a) **In the NT Accounts of Demonic Possession it's hard to know who's talking—the demon or the man...**
 - (1) Jesus is asking the man, NOT the demons...
 - (2) But the Demons Possessing the Man Answers For the Man
 - b) **Have You Ever Talked w/ Someone & Wondered Who's actually Doing Talking?**
 - (1) Someone Who Knows the Truth, but Under the Influence of one Who Doesn't?
 - (2) Have You Ever Wondered Who Was Actually Doing the Talking?
 - (3) What they are saying is the very words someone else filled their heart with
 - c) **Not Demon Possession—but Demonic Deception—believing lies of Satan**

2. The Demons Answer: 'LEGION'

- a) Mk 5:9 And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many."
- b) A Roman Legion was 6,000 Soldiers
- c) We Don't Know How Many Demons are in this man, but we do know the number of the herd of Swine (2,000 pigs)

3. The Demons Know Who Jesus Is and They Are Afraid!

- a) James declared that Even the Demons Believe and Tremble!

C. THE DEMONS CAST OUT BY CHRIST (v.32–33)

1. THE ABYSS: They Begged Him That He Would NOT Command Them Into the Abyss

- a) They Do NOT Want to be Cast OUT of Their Human Host...
- b) They Do NOT Want to be Cast INTO the Abyss...
- c) So They Ask For an Alternative...— But they Have to Ask Permission!

2. THE HERD OF PIGS: (v.32) Jesus gave them that permission! WHY? (we can only speculate)

- a) Is it possible that Jesus was not being merciful to the demons but to the man?
- b) That Jesus was Concerned about Freeing the Man without causing more Harm?

3. This is What Satan will do with a life and what Jesus can do with a life.

II. THE REACTIONS (v.34–40)

A. THE DEMONS

1. The Demons Recognized Jesus' Deity (v.28)

- a) Even calling Jesus "Son of the Most High God"!

2. They Also Recognized a Future Judgement (v.28, 31)

- a) They begged Jesus not to torment them
- b) Begging Jesus that He not command them to go out into the Abyss

3. They Recognized Jesus Deity... and the Future Judgement... But They Didn't Ask For Forgiveness—

- a) only that they not be cast into the Abyss or tormented
- b) Instead They Asked to Be Allowed to Enter the Herd of Pigs

4. And the Destructive Nature of Evil Destroys Whoever/Whatever It Inhabits

- a) Some have complained that it was Jesus Fault for the loss of entire herd pigs
- b) Jesus neither sent the demons into the pigs (he gave them permission),
- c) nor did Jesus send the pigs into the lake (the demons caused that).
- d) The Bottom Line is that One Soul is Worth More than all the world

B. THE CITIZENS (v.34–37)

1. The Townspeople heard what happened, and came to see for themselves, —We Don't Know All They Were Thinking.. BUT...

- a) On one side they see 2,000 dead pigs floating below a cliff!
- b) Then they see the Demon Possessed Man They Feared For So Long,
Sitting, clothed ,and in his right mind!
- c) Then They See Jesus who has just Defeated an Entire Host of Demons!

2. They Are Literally Standing in middle of a Spiritual Battlefield!

- a) Immediately After A Spiritual Victory Over Demonic Forces!
- b) They Are Standing Before the Super Natural Power of the Deity of Christ
- c) I Don't Think They Were Ready For What They Walked Into!

3. They Were Seized w/ Fear and Asked Jesus to Leave!

- a) But What about all the sick, the blind, the demon possessed of their cities?
- b) What About All the Teaching and Help Jesus Could Give Them?

They Asked Jesus To Leave and He He Left!

There is no record that Jesus ever went near that place again,
which shows how far-reaching the consequences are of one wrong decision.

C. THE MAN (v.38–39)

1. This man had been tormented by demons...

- a) Completely Oppressed by Demonic Control
- b) To the Point that Day & Night he cried out, Cutting Himself with sharp stones

2. But Now he sits clothed and in his right mind and wants to go with Jesus!

- a) But Jesus asks him to be the 1st christian missionary
- b) to tell his family and friends what God has done for him
- c) They Asked Jesus to Leave—but Jesus Leaves an Ambassador/Messenger

3. And He Honors Jesus Command!

- a) He Went and Proclaimed Christ through the Whole city!

III.THE IMPLICATIONS

A. THERE IS A SPIRITUAL BATTLE...

1. A Spiritual Battle in the Spiritual Realm...

- a) But it Also Spills Over Into the Physical Realm
- b) Because We Are Both Physical and Spiritual Beings

2. Our War is Not With Flesh and Blood—it is Spiritual Warfare (Eph.6:12–13)

- a) We're not equipped to fight this Alone—but We Have the Help of the Lord

3. But What Are Demons and How Are They Involved?

a) In NT Demons are called “evil” spirits or “unclean” spirits.

- (1) That the demons are called spirits—indicates their basic metaphysical nature as a part of the invisible universe—Spiritual Realm.
- (2) That they are called evil / unclean—indicates their moral nature.

b) So They Are Spirits—but What Kind of Spirits?

- (1) The Bible Does Not Give Hardly Any Information to their nature or origin
- (2) But from the Biblical Evidence IT SEEMS that Demons are Fallen Angels...
- (3) Angels that Sinned (2 Pet 2:4, KJV)

4. So How Are Demons Involved in This Spiritual War?

a) They Are Involved in a Rebellion Led By Satan

- (1) The Pharisees called satan “the ruler of the demons” (Matt 12:24).

- (2) In Matthew 25:41 Jesus refers to “the devil and his angels.”
 - (3) Since the term “angel” means messenger, it appears that the demons are under the authority of Satan and carry out his plans and instructions. (Cottrell)
- b) So the Bible does not explicitly identify demons with the fallen angels,** but it is reasonable conclusion based on the similarities between demons (“the devil and his angels”) and good angels.
- (1) Both groups are powerful spiritual beings...
 - (2) Both are depicted as being involved in head-to-head combat (Rev 12:7–9).
 - (3) But if the “angels that sinned” are not Satan and his demons, then we have no idea as to the nature and fate of these fallen angels.

B. EVIL IS ALWAYS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE

1. We See How Destructive the Demons Were to the Man...

- a) They Were Destroying This Man Mentally, Physically and Spiritually

2. We See How Destructive the Demons Were to the Pigs...

- a) Their Very Presence Caused the Pigs to Run Off a Cliff and Be Destroyed

3. They were Destructive like their leader, Satan

- a) whose desire is to steal, and to kill, and to destroy (John 10:10).

4. Jesus Gives Life—Satan Destroys Life!

- a) **We See How Destructive the Demons Were,**

But Why Did They Want to Inhabit a Human Body?

- b) **Is it Possible** They Wanted to Inhabit a Body for the Same Reason a Vandal Wants a Brick? an Assassin Wants a Gun? an Arsonist wants a Fire? a Terrorist a bomb?
- c) A body is a weapon that Can be used in their attack against God and His People.
- d) Allowing More Damage and Destruction, to Disrupt or Delay God’s Plans
- e) **One Person Described it this way:**

“With the incarnation of the Word, the Son of God, the forces of the devil also, in order to oppose him as Man and in his work of redemption, endeavored to incarnate themselves in human beings. The Evil One, as it were, wanted to become a man. It is for this reason that demon-possession was such a characteristic phenomenon of the time when Jesus was upon the earth.”

(Geldenhuys, Cited by Coffman)

C. BUT EVEN THE DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE (James 2:19)

1. They Recognized the Deity of Jesus...

- a) They Feared the Authority of Jesus,
- b) They Knew the Power of Jesus
- c) and they Begged Jesus Not to Cast Them Into the Abyss

2. They Understood the ABYSS was their Final Judgement...

- a) But Just Like the Townspeople...
- b) They Are Confronted with the Truth—They’re Afraid of the Truth
- c) But Don’t Want the Truth to Set Them Free!

D. ONLY JESUS CAN SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

1. Only Jesus can give liberty to the Oppressed

- a) Only Jesus Can Give Sight to the Blind
- b) Only Jesus Has Power Over Satan, Sin and Death

2. The War Has Already Been Won!

- a) By Casting Out Demons—Jesus Was Defeating the Work of Satan—
—and Setting the Captives Free!
- b) (Luke 10:17-18; 20)

CONCLUSION:

1. Because of What Jesus Did For Us at the Cross... We Are More than Conquerers!

2. Romans 8:37–39 NIV