

JESUS' POWER OVER SATANIC FORCES Luke 8:26-40

1. When I hear atheists moralizing on what they think is right/wrong...I ask myself:
What is this Moral Law you keep judging everyone with?
 - a. Your Atheists, You Don't Believe in God, or right or wrong—Just survival of the fittest
 - b. But they're constantly moralizing and judging everyone by their own made-up fake morality
2. **Today: Right is what meets my needs, Wrong is what doesn't meet my needs**
 - a. The Truth is—godless people only care about right & wrong to gain advantage over others to manipulate you to get what they want
 - b. But while Atheists are living in Denial of God and His Law—Evil continues to corrupt... lives are still shattered... People are still without Hope... Souls are still powerless to be free

Satan's Primary Strategy Today is Not Demonic Possession—but Demonic Deception

Were About to see a Battle in the Invisible War—3 Realms Meet on this Battlefield

1. the evil realm of demonic spirits,
 2. the visible realm of human experience,
 3. the divine realm of God's control.
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I. JESUS POWER OVER SATANIC FORCES (v.26–33)

A. THE VISIBLE REALM—A TORMENTED MAN (v.26–29) [MAP]

1. **Notice what Satanic Forces Can do to a Life...**
 - a) **POSSESSED**: Overpowered and Driven by Demons into the Wilderness
 - b) **ALIENATED** He lives in the tombs, probably caverns or caves in the mountain
He's without clothes and without a home.
 - c) **UNCONTROLLABLE**: bound w/ chains he has demonic strength to break them
 - d) **TORMENTED**: Mk 5:5 Night & Day he cried out, Cutting Himself with sharp stones
 - e) **AFRAID**: When He Saw Jesus He Cried Out and Fell Down Before Him (v.28)
2. **You Would Think that if a Person sold their soul to Satan they would get something out of it—This is what you get and worse...**

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

1. **Jesus asks Him—WHAT IS YOUR NAME?**
 - a) In NT Accounts of Demonic Possession—hard to know who's talking: demon or man
Jesus is asking the man, but the Demons Possessing the Man Answers For the Man
 - b) **Many Today Are Under the Influence... and You Can Tell By Talking to them...**
 - (1) They are Under the Influence of Lies, of Deception, of the World, and of Satan...
And when you talk to them—it's hard to know who's doing the talking?
 - c) **Satan's Primary Strategy is Not Possession—but Deception—lies of Enemy**
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 (about 2,000 pigs)
3. **The Demons Know Who Jesus Is and They Are Afraid!**

C. THE DIVINE REALM—THE POWER OF JESUS 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!

WHAT IS THE ABYSS?

- a) **Greek word: abyssos** — Translated: Abyss, and Bottomless Pit
“Derived from a Greek word meaning “something which is bottomless” and often used to refer to a place of despair in which demons are imprisoned.” (Dictionary of Bible Themes)
- b) This Greek Word describes a Prison of Judgement, but not the Final Place of Judgment which is the Lake of Fire (**Revelation 9:1; 20:1-3**)
“the dwelling place of demons and the beast and as a place of confinement unto judgment that is under God's control. In Lu 8:31 the demons beg Jesus not to send them into the abyss, knowing that they will no longer be free to wreak havoc on the earth.”
(Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology)
- c) The Abyss is so similar to desc. of (**2 Peter 2:4**) some think it's same place
As Jude Describes (**Jude 6**)

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?

Jesus Gives Life—Satan Destroys Life

II. THE REACTIONS TO JESUS POWER (v.34–40)

A. THE DEMONS

1. **The Demons Believe the Truth of Who Jesus Is!**
2. **The Demons Even Confessed Jesus Name!** (v.28)
 - a) Calling Jesus “Son of the Most High God”!
3. **The Demons Also Feared the 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
4. **They BELIEVED! They CONFESSED, They FEARED the Judgement...**
But They Didn't Repent or 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
5. **And the Destructive Nature of Evil Destroys Whoever/Whatever It Inhabits**

B. THE CITIZENS (v.34–37)

1. **The Townspeople heard what happened, and came to see for themselves,**
 - a) On one side they see 2,000 dead pigs floating below a cliff!
 - b) Then they see the Demon Possessed Man Sitting, clothed, and in his right mind!

- c) Then They See Jesus who has just Defeated an Entire Host of Demons!
- d) They're Literally Standing in middle of a Spiritual Battlefield!
I Don't Think They Were Ready For What They Walked Into!

2. But They Didn't Want their Normal Lives Disturbed...

so they 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?

Right is what meets my needs, Wrong is what doesn't meet my needs

3. They Asked Jesus To Leave and 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 OF JESUS POWER

A. EVEN DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE (James 2:19)

1. They Recognized the Deity of Jesus...

- a) They Feared the Authority and Power of Jesus,
- b) They Begged Jesus Not to Cast Them Into the Abyss
- c) They Understood the ABYSS was their Future Judgement...
- d) But Just Like the Townspeople... They Don't Want to the Truth to Set them Free

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

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

3. What Does the Bible Say About Demons?

- a) Demons Exist (Mk 1:23; Mt. 4:24).
- b) Demons are not atheists - they 'believe and tremble' (James 2:19).
- c) Demons do not deny the Deity of Christ (Mark 1:24; 3:11).
- d) Demons acknowledge the authority of Jesus Christ (Lk. 8:31).
- e) Demons do not deny personal accountability (Mt. 8:29).

- f) Demons do not deny the existence of Hell (Mt. 8:29; James 2:19).
- g) Demons promote false doctrines (1 Tim 4:1 “doctrines of demons”)
- h) Demons promote false worship (Dt 32:17; Ps. 106:37; Rev. 9:20)
- i) Demons promote the rebellion of satan against God (Rev. 16:13-16)

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. If you read the Word of God describing the Abyss...

- a) it is a place so terrible that even the Demons are afraid of it! (**Revelation 9:1–3**)
- b) **Why Would Anyone Risk Going to This Terrible Place?**

C. 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
- c) By Casting Out Demons—Jesus Was Already Defeating the Work of Satan—
—and Setting the Captives Free! (**Luke 10:17-18; 20**)

2. Victory Has Already Been Won by Jesus at the Cross! (Hebrews 2:14–15**)**

Only Jesus Can Set the Captives Free!

D. JESUS LEFT THE NINETY NINE TO SAVE THE ONE

1. When We Look at the Gospel Accounts of this incident...

- a) Jesus Left the Crowds and Crossed the Sea of Galilee > Through a Storm
- b) just to save this man who is oppressed by the forces of darkness

2. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus Left the Ninety-Nine to Save the One

- a) How Amazing That Jesus Knows Who Cries Out to Him...

3. Jesus Left the Glory of Heaven, To Save You!

But How Will You Respond?

- a) The Demons Believe and Tremble but Won't Change
- b) The Towns People Didn't Want their Life Disturbed so they asked Jesus to Leave
- c) But the Man Set Free Sat with Jesus and told others what God had done for Him!

CONCLUSION:

1) Jesus Gives Life—Satan Destroys Life

2) Jesus Saves—Satan Destroys

3) Jesus Died—So You Can Live forever (Romans 8:37–39 NIV**)**