

Luke 8:22-39 – Dealing with Demons

(1) If you want to follow Jesus, expect “natural” demonic resistance.

- ❖ Especially when you get serious about sharing the gospel.
- ❖ Have faith in Jesus' power, put on God's armor, and be alert.

(2) If demons resisted Jesus, don't be surprised if they resist you.

- ❖ Have confidence in your authority in Christ.
 - Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9-15; Ephesians 1:3-14.
- ❖ Be persistent: command, pray, worship God, read Scripture.
 - More on this in three weeks in Luke 9:40.
- ❖ Investigate – what is its name (its function, nature)?
 - How did it gain access into this person's life?

(3) What is “Demon Possession”?

- ❖ Verse 27 says the man “had demons” - like having parasites.
- ❖ If Jesus owns our bodies, how can Christians have demons?
- ❖ Well, how can Christians have physical viruses or parasites?
 - Answer: We are imperfect and live in a fallen world.
- ❖ Your body is a house that Jesus owns, but pests can still get in if you don't clean well and leave doors open.
- ❖ Your body is a car that you drive while Jesus gives directions in the front. An unwelcome passenger may climb in the back.

(4) How do Demons get in?

- ❖ The Occult: Trying to access any supernatural source of power or information other than God.
- ❖ False Religions: The gods of other religions are demons. If you or your parents invited them into your family through worship, they may try to stick around.
- ❖ Generational Consequences (Curses). Sins of rebellion are passed down to the 3rd and 4th generation. When parents embrace such sins, they open themselves and their families to demons (King Saul).
- ❖ Hidden sin, especially addictions. Demons gain strength from darkness and shame. Exposing sin leads to healing.
- ❖ Bitterness. Paul says it is a wide-open door that gives Satan a foothold in your life.
- ❖ Trauma, especial sexual abuse. Intense fear, shame and hiddenness have a way of opening the door of our lives to demons. Its not fair, but demons don't fight fair.
- ❖ Sexual encounters. Sex bonds people in a deep way. STDs are not just physical, they can be spiritual.

(5) What to do if you think you might have a demon:

- ❖ Just as physical viruses often clear up as we focus on getting healthy, demonic parasites often clear out as we repent and get spiritually healthy.
 - Repent: Verbally and specifically renounce and turn from your previous sins and the sins of your family.
 - Forgive those who have hurt you and bless them.
 - Then, live a lifestyle of faith, loving and obeying Jesus.
- ❖ But sometimes a demon may try to hold on and keep tormenting you, like a lingering physical virus. Some possible symptoms could include:
 - Brain fog when reading the Bible and praying.
 - Harassing negative thoughts.
 - Compulsive temptations
 - Strange physical sensations or illnesses.
- ❖ Schedule a spiritual check-up with wise Christians who understand our authority in Christ and how to deal with demonic parasites.
 - Including, but not limited to, church elders.
 - As well as those with the gift of discernment.



Questions from March 29, 2026

Ice Breaker

(1) Share how you are doing and pray for each other.

Digging Deeper

(2) Read Luke 8:22-26 and point 1. Have you ever experienced what you think might have been "natural" demonic resistance as you tried to serve God?

(3) Read Luke 8:27-39 and point 2.

- How did the demons try to resist Jesus and how did Jesus respond?
- Why did the townspeople ask Jesus to leave?

(4) Read Luke 8:27 again and point 3. How is having a demon like having a virus or a parasite? Why do most Christians have no trouble accepting that we could have a physical virus (despite belonging to Christ) but many struggle to believe we could have a spiritual virus?

Living Out

(5) Read point 3 again. Do either the house and the car metaphors help you better understand how a Christian could have a demon?

(6) Read point 4. Which of these seven openings for demons really stands out or confuses you?

(7) Read point 5. What are some ways to respond if you think a demonic parasite may have attached itself to you?