

INTRODUCING JESUS

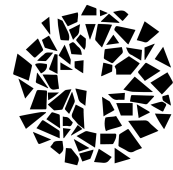
LUKE 8:26-39

Community Group Study Guide
Week of March 3, 2019

This week we looked at Luke 8:26-39 where Jesus casts a legion of demons out of a man from the gentile region of the Gerasenes. When we first meet the man, he is completely out of control. He has been running around wild, unclothed, and violently terrorizing the people of a nearby city. The people have attempted to restrain him with chains, but he's been able to break the bonds. Finally, they resort to appointing guards to confine him to a graveyard outside of the city. There was no hope that this man could change. The only hope anyone had left was that he would die before hurting anyone else or causing too much trouble. He was the epitome of a lost cause, but then he met Jesus and his life was transformed.

The man's possession and transformation are bizarre and beautiful. Equally surprising is the reaction of the townspeople. Rather than celebrate and worship Jesus for the miracle they'd just witnessed, they are filled with fear and ask him to leave. As Jesus drew the demons out of the man, he also drew the sin and hypocrisy of the townspeople into the light. They may not have been possessed by the demonic, but Satan still had a powerful influence over them. He'd captivated them with lies. They had been worshipping false demonic idols, they'd come to value their pigs and prosperity over human souls created in God's image, and when the true God came to offer them salvation, they were afraid and wanted nothing to do with him.

This story stands as a powerful example of the way Jesus can change a person's life. The true transformation, however, wasn't seen in the surface level behaviors, but in the essence of this man's being. He was delivered from the evil spirits, and born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. This change was only possible because of the exchange that would soon take place. Jesus was preparing to give his own life in exchange for sinners like this man. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus would pay the price to redeem this man and reconcile him to God. Hell has entered this man in order to destroy his life, but Jesus was preparing to go through hell in order to destroy Satan, sin, and death.



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DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand Jesus' sovereign power over spiritual reality.

Heart

To trust that Jesus is able to sanctify us and transform our lives.

Hands

To obey Jesus' commands and share with others all that He has done for us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ICE BREAKER

Who is your favorite fictional villain?

Read Luke 8:26-39

- What initially stood out to you as we read this passage?
- Why is it important to understand the reality of evil spiritual beings, how they behave, and what they're capable of?
- Last week we saw Jesus display his sovereign power over the forces of physical reality by calming the storm, this week we see him display his sovereign power over the spiritual realm as he cast out the legion of demons. Why would these have both been valuable lessons for his disciples to learn, and why are they important for us to understand as well?
- At first glance the ordeal with the herd of pigs might seem very strange, but how does it give us a fuller understanding of what's really going on in this passage?
- Jesus seems to give both the townspeople and the demons what they ask for, but he says, "No" to the man who asks to come with him. If Jesus has proven himself to be our Lord and Savior, why do we still sometimes have a hard time obeying when he tells us no or gives us boundaries and commands?
- Jesus tells this man, "no," even though he seemed to be asking for a very good thing. What are we meant to learn from this, and how might it help us as we discern God's will for our lives?
- What comes to mind as you think about this story in relation to the parable of the sower that Jesus taught earlier? What can looking at these two passages together teach us about discipleship, the Gospel, and evangelism?
- How does Jesus' command at the end of this passage simplify or make evangelism a little less intimidating? Do you think you would be prepared to tell someone "all that God has done for you" if the opportunity came up?