

DEALING WITH DEMONS | LUKE 8:26-39 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 11/2/2025

I. The Confrontation (26-30) | II. The Eviction (30-33) | III. The Reaction 34-39)

INTRO: In our last study (8:22-25) we learned that **Jesus Tested** and **Questioned His disciples**, asking: **“Where is Your Faith”** – In the remainder of this chapter (8:26-56), Jesus continues His mission, by again demonstrating **His Power and Authority** when Dealing with “Demons, Disease, & Death.” (2 parts)

I. THE CONFRONTATION (26-30) – **READ:** *After the miracle of the calming of the Sea*, – Jesus and His disciples **sailed straight for the country of the Gadarenes** (26). – **Gerasa** was a well-known Roman city. It was situated in the hills on the east side of the Jordan River.

A. Jesus Stepped Out onto the Land (27) – In (v. 22) Jesus told the disciples **“Let us cross over to the other side,”** thus keeping His word. – After the miracle and the fulfilling of His Word... after the strengthening of the disciples faith, you would think that **a time of rest would be allowed.** **Not so!**

1. **A Demon-Possessed man met them (27b)** – Matthew and Mark mention two demoniacs, but Luke mentions only **“a certain man”** from the city. *(Most likely the more dominant one of the two)*
2. **Question: WHO are Demons and WHERE do they come from?** – The Gr. **daimonion**, describes **spirit beings** inferior to God, but superior to men. – They are **evil spirits** and ministers of the devil. – In short, **Demons** are believed to be **angels who fell from grace** after rebelling against God.
 - a. (Rev 12:4,7) mentions that **“demons”** were originally created as angels (STARS) and existed as part of God’s angelic army. – **However**, when Satan rebelled against God, **one third** of the angelic host joined him in his revolt, which is why Scripture refers to them collectively as “Satan . . . and his angels” (Rev 12:9). – Most likely, these **fallen angels** are the **“demons”** which are active in this fallen world, which are hostile towards **God, His Creation, & Mankind!**
 - b. **However**, “some theories” suggest they are disembodied spirits beings, **that resulted from a forbidden union** between angels and humans (Gen 6:4).
 - c. **Furthermore**, – The angels which remained loyal to God are called the **“holy angels”** in Scripture (Mark 8:38); and **Ministering spirits** (Heb 1:14), *sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*; while the defectors who followed Satan are referred to as **“unclean spirits”** or “demons” today (e.g., Mark 9:25).
3. **Notice the Activity of this demon-possession (27c).** – They caused the victim to **discard his clothes**, **shun society**, and **live in the tombs**. – Satanic activity in one’s life will cause you to act this way... i.e., to be **obsessed with nudity and death** **until your life is taken from you!**

B. Jesus was Recognized by the Demon Possessed Man (28-30) – When he saw Jesus **he CRIED OUT and begged Him** to let him alone! (28a) – It was an **unclean spirit** who spoke through the pitiful man. *(I believe this spirit is evident in our culture today, when people stop their ears and scream, “leave us alone!”)*

1. **Demons Know who Jesus is (28b)** and they are **aware of a future judgment** (Matt 8:29). – They **BEGGED** not to be tormented! – They did not want to be **CAST OUT** of the man!
2. **Demon Possession is Real! (29a)** – **Demons are not just mere influencers**, they are **supernatural beings who INDWELT this man**, controlling his thoughts, speech, & behavior!
 - a. **Demons TARGET** both **unbelievers and believers in different ways**, and they are responsible for immense suffering among both. – But we must know the difference between Demon Oppression and Demon Possession.

- Demons/Fallen angels are enemies of God, but they are defeated enemies! **They've got nothing on you, BECAUSE Christ has** *"disarmed the powers and authorities,"* and He has *"made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross"* (Col 2:15)
- Demons **CANNOT** possess a Born-Again believer! (1 John 4:4) *"The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world"* – As we *"submit to God and resist the devil,"* (James 4:7).

b. Demons are allowed to Possess **those without faith in Jesus Christ**, and **those who dabble** with darkness. – In (tt. Acts 19:13-16) we see mention of the seven sons of Sceva *who took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits...* (No Relationship!)

- Demons can enter in through CERTAIN PORTALS! – **Divination Tools:** Ouija boards, Tarot cards, Palm reading, Horoscopes and Other fortune-telling devices. - **Certain Occult Symbols:** such as Pentagrams, All-seeing eyes, Soul-catchers. - **Media and Literature:** Certain books and videos related to Witchcraft, Astrology, Horror movies, and Pornography. – **Worldly Music:** can also **invite demonic influence**. – **Sinful Behavior:** Adultery, Fornication, Idolatry, Sorcery, Hatred, Jealousies, Heresies, Drunkenness and Drug Use! – Paul goes on to say, (Gal 5:21b) *I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* – Church, BE CAREFUL of the things that you Allow in your life! (House)

3. Demons can be CAST OUT (29b) – So, In accordance with Jesus' mission (Luke 4:18b), Jesus came to the country of Gadara, **TO SET THIS MAN FREE!** *...To proclaim liberty to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed*

4. Demons are supernaturally strong (29c) – These particular demons caused the man to be **extremely strong/violent**. It overpowered this man! He needed **DIVINE DELIVERANCE from JESUS!**

5. Jesus Asked the demon what He Called Himself (30) – Because **many demons** had controlled this man, He called himself **LEGION**. – During Jesus' time, a Roman legion typically consisted of even as many as 6,000 legionnaires (*10 cohorts of 600*). – *Think of this many demons inside a person* (wow!)

II. THE EVICTION (31-33) – **READ:** With a simple Word, (v.29) tells us that Jesus **COMMANDED** the unclean spirit to *"come out of the man,"* which caused **three notable reactions** in the next 3 verses:

A. Their FEAR (31) – Yes, **demons have fear!** – (James 2:19b) tells us *"... Even the demons believe — and tremble"*, and **this is exactly what they are doing here!**

1. These demons **feared** that Christ would send them into the ABYSS, (Gr. **abyssos**: i.e., the deep bottomless pit) – It's mentioned 9x's in the NT of which 7 occurrences are in Revelation!

- FYI: The primary Hebrew name for the underworld is **Sheol**, while the Greek names are **Hades**, **Gehenna**, and **Tartarus**. – Although often translated as **"hell,"** these words have different meanings; for instance, **Sheol** originally referred to the grave, **Hades** to the realm of the dead, and **Gehenna** is a symbol of divine punishment (**Lake of Fire**, cf. Rev 20:10-15)

2. While on earth **Jesus cast many demons out** (e.g., 4:35,41). But **many still roam**, looking for hosts! Still, many are currently bound and will be released in the Trib. Period (cf. Rev 9:1–11 – *at the 5th Trumpet*).

P/A – FEAR arose in these Demons because they KNEW that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (e.g., 4:41; Mark 3:11-12; Matt 8:29), Who has the **AUTHORITY** to send them to the **abyss/pit!** (cf. 2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6)

B. Their REQUEST (32a) – The demons *"Begged"* Jesus (31a,32b), for **"PERMISSION"** to enter swine.

1. Re: Swine, **Local SWINE were raised in Gadara?** – You may recall that this territory was allotted to the **half tribe of Manasseh** (Num 32; Josh 13:29-31), which settled on the East side of the Jordan.

- **As part of the Kingdom of Israel**, this territory was the first to be conquered by the Assyrians in circa.720 BC, and many members of the tribe were exiled; others fled south to Judea wilderness
- When Jesus visited, the inhabitants of the land were Raising PIGS and Overrun by DEMONS!
- **Mosaic law FORBIDS Jews from eating or keeping unclean animals such as swine** (Lev 11:7).

P/A – This is what could happen when we **Stop Short** of God's plans for us! (*The Prodigal Son*, 15:11-24)

2. Re: Possession – Apparently demons do not prefer to be **disembodied!** (tt. Matt 12:43-44) *“When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. 44 Then he says ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.*

C. Their END (33b-33) – **Permission was granted BY JESUS** (32b). – The result, *the pigs ran headlong down the steep place into the lake and drowned!* – **WOW, what can we learn from this?**

1. The Demons **Immediately Entered** the Pigs: *Teaching us that animas can be possessed!* (Serpent)
2. The Pigs were **Immediately Tormented** by the demons: *This shows the inherently chaotic and destructive nature of the demons they possessed.* (they inflict Mental and even physical harm!)
3. The Pigs were Driven to **their death!** – *It also serves as a visual metaphor for the damage that demonic influence can cause.* (Their presence Drove the Pigs to death!) **Sadly, they do the same to humans!**

P/A – *Jesus is often criticized for destruction of someone else's property.* However, Jesus was certainly not responsible for the destruction of the herd of swine in the vicinity.

III. THE REACTION (34-39) – **READ:** *One would think that the whole town would rejoice, not so!*

A. The Report of Eyewitnesses (34-35a) – The **“Pig Farmers”** fled, *telling all what they saw* (34)... **Good!** – And the Reaction of the entire region was that *they came to see* (35a)... **Good!** They found...

B. The Restoration of the Man (35b) – **They witnessed three things:** 1) *He was at Jesus' feet!* – Not violent but humbly at peace. 2) *He was clothed!* – Not naked but covered. 3) *He was in his right mind!* – Not raging but his rationale was restored! – The man was **no longer controlled by demons!** Rather, he was found in his right mind with Jesus. – This is what Jesus does for those who believe in Him! – (2 Tim 1:7) *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

C. The Rejection of the Multitude (35c-37) – The townspeople reacted in FEAR (35c). – When they found out **HOW** the man was healed (36), they **BEGGED Jesus to depart** (37), wanting **NO PART with JESUS OR HIS RIGHT WAYS...** WOW! – They were more **disturbed by the presence and power of JESUS** than by a legion of devils! – **That's a twisted mindset...** it reveals how Godless the region had become! (*Pretty much like the whole west coast of the United States! ...And NY... ha!*) – **I see two insightful contrasts ...**

- **UNGODLY people VALUE their Possessions** more than **His Presence!** (*A... Leave us alone mindset*)
- **UNGODLY people VALUE Pigs' lives** more than **People's lives!** (*Save the whales, kill the babies mindset*)

P/A – How do you **REACT** when the Oppressed, the Drug-addicts, and the Social Outcasts of society get delivered from their bondage? Do you **Rejoice with them**, or do you **Reject them** and the Mercy of God shown in their lives, being **consumed only with what benefits you?**

- Notice (37b), Jesus didn't argue with them! *He got in the Boat and returned!* – In (Matt 10:14) Jesus taught His disciples, “*And if anyone **will not receive you or listen to your words**, shake off the dust from your feet when you leave that house or town. – (Matt 7:6) says, “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; **nor cast your pearls before swine**, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”*

D. The Request of the Man (38-39) – *The delivered man BEGGED to be with Jesus* (38) – This is a the Right Reaction for those who have truly been set-free! (*Why?... A changed life!*)

- Jesus told him to **Return and Retell** (39) – He commissioned the man to be a witness in his own community. (*Exactly what we are called to do... I'm just a nobody, telling EVERYBODY!*)

P/A – If Jesus has changed your Life... **WHAT IS YOUR REACTION?**

CLOSING THOUGHTS: *Jesus knows how to DEAL With DEMONS! He can bind or loose the strongest of enemies.* He has total authority of all demonic forces and will perform great things if we have faith in Him. However, many would rather have demons terrorizing the city, than to have a Lord of peace dwelling in their midst! *What about YOU? ...*

- **Are you BEGGING** to be with Jesus or are you **BEGGING** for Jesus to depart from your life!
- **Re: Deliverance Ministry** – If you are **Born-Again**, you don't need to be delivered from your sins, you need to **CONFESS** and **REPENT** of Your Sins! – (Col 1:13-14) *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*