

Luke 8:26-39 NIV

²⁶ They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" ²⁹ For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

³⁰ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. ³¹ And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

³² A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. ³³ When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, ³⁵ and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. ³⁷ Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

1. Chapter 7 highlighted the key elements of faith, hope and love
2. Chapter 8 gives us examples of what that faith looks like
 - a. We looked at the 4 types of soil
 - b. We considered the lighted lamp

- c. We witnessed the disciples in the storm
 - d. Today we'll look at an encounter on the other side of that boat ride
3. When they crossed over to the other side where mostly gentiles live
- a. A certain possessed man fell before Jesus

- I. Pain**
- II. Power**
- III. Petition**

- I. Pain**

- 1. When Jesus goes someplace, it is normally to solve a problem
 - a. This was not a vacation trip
 - b. There is someone here who is in much pain and The Answer just stepped out of the boat
- 2. This passage is the most extensive describing a demon possessed person
 - a. The enemy has total control over him
 - b. This image is gruesome
 - i. A wild man living in the wilderness among the tombs
 - ii. Isolated
 - iii. Naked
 - iv. Scarred and bloodied
 - 1. No ability to reason
 - a. No rest
 - b. No hope
 - c. This man is in pain and torment
 - i. He is without clothing - **exposed**
 - ii. He's not living in a home but among the tombs - **no security**

- iii. He's shackled in chains – **in bondage**
- d. This is the picture of what sin does to people
- e. It promises them pleasure or peace
- f. Instead, people are left exposed without covering
 - i. It's not God exposing you, it's the sin itself
- g. **Your sin will find you out (Num 32:23)**
 - i. Sin is like violating the law of nature
 - ii. It is self fulfilling
 - iii. Yielding to sin leaves you exposed
- h. **Continuing in sin is like dwelling without shelter**
 - i. A picture of someone living without security
 - ii. He was separated from his family and friends
 - iii. **Is 59:2** But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
- i. **Yielding to sin will cause you to be shackled by the very thing that promised pleasure / peace**
 - i. The demoniac's external chains are a picture of his internal chains
 - ii. He was a slave to sin and the devil took him captive
 - 1. More than 2000 demons living in him
 - 2. Legion - up to 6000
- j. Those who don't have Christ living in their heart are open target for the enemy
- k. That was not how things began for him

- i. It's a picture of the end result
- l. Things typically begin very small
- m. A man took on a challenge to walk from New York City to San Francisco. He said that the toughest part of the trip wasn't the steep slopes of the mountains or crossing hot, dry, barren stretches of desert. Instead, he said, "The thing that came the closest to defeating me was the sand in my shoes."
- n. It usually begins small and grows
- o. **James 1:15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
- p. **Promising the world, sin produces shame, insecurity and bondage**
- q. Somewhere down the line, he opened himself up to demonic activity
 - i. We don't know what he dabbled in
 - ii. Now he pays a heavy price
 - iii. What promised him happiness... now brings constant misery
- r. That's how deceptive the enemies lies are
 - i. You are promised happiness, satisfaction, rest
 - ii. You promised the world & real life
- s. Instead, life is taken from you
- t. His family is gone
 - i. His friends are gone
 - ii. His sanity is gone
 - iii. His identity is gone
 - iv. His ability to help himself is gone

1. The enemy has him helpless & hopeless

2. He's drowning in the ocean of despair and no one watching can help
 3. They only seem to add to the problem by placing more chains on him
 4. Forever labeled as an outcast
- u. That's not the worst part of this pain
- i. Luke 16:24 ...**For I am tormented in this flame**
3. **Good news is that the Savior is arriving at shore**
 4. **Luke 19:10** **For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost**
 5. **This is His specialty**
 - a. No sin is too big to forgive – all is forgivable
 - b. No demon strong enough to disobey
 - c. No addiction is tough enough to keep the Savior from saving the lost

II. Power - of God

1. When the man saw Jesus, he ran and cried out and fell before Him
2. It doesn't matter if the man has thousands of demons
3. Standing there is the One who spoke and the Billions of angels were created
 - a. They know who Jesus is
 - b. Their counter parts in heaven are worshipping around the throne
 - c. They know where they were and what they've done
4. What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?

5. I beg you, by God that You don't torment me
6. The devil understands there is a day of judgment coming
7. According to their understanding, that time is not yet
 - a. They were a bit thrown off
8. "What is your name" was not for dialogue, but to teach us that demons have a very orderly system in their dark world
9. They know how to work together like soldiers in an army
10. The demons ask to go into the pigs instead of being sent back into the abyss
11. They'd rather wreak havoc in pigs than dwell in the lonely place of isolation in the abyss
12. Jesus could just as easily place them all into a pit and not allow them to roam
13. He could bind them all up and lock them up forever
14. Instead, God uses them for His purpose
15. Looking at the story of Job, Satan came to God and said, "I want to go after Job." God said, "Go after him; it serves My purpose."
16. **2 Cor 12** Paul says, "There was given to him a messenger from Satan; A demon who placed a thorn in his flesh and he prayed three times to have it removed and God said, "I'm not going to remove it because My strength is perfected in your weakness and you're going to learn to be humble through this."
17. **Luke 22**, Jesus says to Peter, "Satan desires to have you that he might sift you like wheat." I told him yes." Jesus said yes to Satan, go at him, and sift him because when he's come through this trial victoriously and his faith is intact, he's going to be a more effective servant
18. **That is power**

19. This should cause us to place more faith in God's sovereignty and wisdom
20. God is greater than any power and uses all things to serve His purpose
21. The townspeople came and found the man clothed, in his right mind sitting at the feet of Jesus
22. This is a picture of conversion
 - a. You are clothed with His robe of righteousness
 - b. Able to think and reason freely
 - c. Sitting at the feet of the Master to learn from Him

III. Petition - of the towns people

1. The crowd asked Jesus to leave their town
2. Virtue and truth, hope and peace entered your town
 - a. You ask Him to leave?
3. They were afraid
 - a. They weren't as afraid of the demon possessed man who was tormented
 - b. They weren't afraid of the harm he did himself or potential harm to others
 - c. Something inside them caused them to fear Jesus
4. I suggest to you that people are afraid of what they don't understand and can't control
5. They thought they could control the demoniac
6. But now that he's sitting at the feet of Jesus, people don't know what to make of it
7. Jesus doesn't seem offended and simply gets into the boat to leave

8. Amazing how people don't want any disruption to their life. As often as you hear complaints, people don't really want change
9. Our petitions today will be honored
 - a. Lord, please leave, "OK"
 - b. Lord, please abide with us, "OK"

IV. Petition - of the converted man

1. Perhaps now sitting at the feet of Jesus for hours
2. I can imagine the man saying "wait, where are you going?"
 - a. Don't leave me here
 - b. Take me with you
3. Jesus had another plan for him.
4. **Vs. 39**, "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you."
5. Jesus sends this first missionary back to his home town to preach the good news
 - a. Back to the same people who rejected Him
 - b. What a picture of His heart
 - c. He'll continue to send His messengers to unworthy people
 - d. Truth is we are all unworthy
6. Our lesson is Jesus' compassion is on all people in every place
7. He wants to restore those who are captive and set them free
8. Those that need a simple word of kindness or correction, Jesus has it
9. Those that need a complete deliverance from thousands of demons, Jesus is there to do it

10. In light of this story, how big is your problem today?
11. What God did for this man, He'll do you for you today...
12. This is salvation