

Miracle Worker

Part Nine: *demons*

July 30, 2023

As God incarnate, Jesus is much more powerful than demons (Eph. 1:20-21). We see an example of this in Luke chapter four when Jesus encountered a demon-possessed man in a synagogue in Capernaum. Unable to control his fear, the demon blurted out, *“Let us alone! Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!”* (Luke 4:34). Jesus told the demon to shut up and get out of the man!

In chapter eight, Luke tells us about another time when...

Jesus rescues two men from demon possession - Luke 8:26-39

1st – Luke describes the destructive power of demons. Vs. 26-29

After stopping a fierce storm that terrified His followers (Luke 8:22-25), Jesus and His disciples arrived on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee in a region known as the country of the Gerasenes - a region controlled by the town of Gadara, which was one of the ten cities of the Decapolis. An area inhabited primarily by Gentiles. Luke tells us that a demon-possessed man approached Jesus and His disciples the moment they got out of their boat. Matthew’s gospel notes that there were two men, but Luke and Mark just focus on one man, probably because he did all the talking in the confrontation.

What did the two demon-possessed men look like that confronted Jesus?

- They were under complete control of demons.
- They were naked.
- They were living in the tombs.
- They were hurting themselves and others (Mark 5:5; Matt. 8:28).
- They had supernatural strength.

The demons screamed when they saw Jesus and fell before their Creator. They asked Jesus why the Son of the Most High was there. Then, the demons begged Jesus not to judge them before the appointed time (Matt. 8:29). They did not want Jesus to send them to the Lake of Fire (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

2nd – Luke describes the delivering power of Jesus. Vs. 30-35

The legion of demons asked Jesus to send them to a herd of swine that was feeding on the mountainside. Jesus gave the fallen angels permission to go into the swine, but immediately, the entire herd went crazy and ran off a cliff into the lake! This shocking development caused the herdsmen to run into town and tell everyone what they had witnessed. Then the entire town turned out to investigate (Matt. 8:34).

What did the townspeople see when they gathered around Jesus?

- The two men were sitting at Jesus’ feet, fully clothed, and perfectly sane.

3rd – Luke describes the damning power of sin. Vs. 36-39

How did the people in the region of Gerasene respond when they what Jesus had done for the two men? Did they rejoice and bring their sick to Jesus so that he could heal them? Did they open their hearts to the Gospel of Jesus Christ? No, they begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

What were the people in the region of Gerasenes afraid of?

- They were afraid of Jesus changing their lives!

What a sad commentary of the people living in this region. They would rather have demon-possessed people running around in their region than the Lord Jesus changing lives. They would rather love and live for sin than love and live for God!

Some takeaways from Luke 8:26-39...

1. Jesus has absolute authority over the demonic realm.

The Devil and his demonic force are no match for the Lord Jesus. They cannot stop Jesus' plan to rid the universe of evil and make all things new (Luke 11:20; James 2:19; Rev. 20:10-21:5).

2. Even the worst sinner can be changed by Jesus.

The two demon-possessed men were terrible human beings. They had done unfathomable sins! But Jesus rescued them from the penalty and power of sin and gave them new lives!

3. Every Christian should tell others how Jesus delivered them from the power of sin.

If a former demon-possessed maniac can become an ambassador for Christ, we can become ambassadors for Christ. Even new Christians can amaze people with their testimonies (Mark 5:20).