



Unit .24

Session .01

Jesus Casts Out A Demon

Scripture



Luke 8:26-39

26 Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. **27** When he got out on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torment me!” **29** For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places. **30** “What is your name?” Jesus asked him. “Legion,” he said, because many demons had entered him. **31** And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss. **32** A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs, and he gave them permission. **33** The demons came out of

the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. **34** When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. **35** Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus’s feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. **36** Meanwhile, the eyewitnesses reported to them how the demon-possessed man was delivered. **37** Then all the people of the Gerasene region asked him to leave them, because they were gripped by great fear. So getting into the boat, he returned. **38** The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, **39** “Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you.” And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him.

**What do you think causes us to be afraid of things we don't understand?
Why do you think we fear evil despite God's command not to?**

**What does a faith response to
the authority of Jesus look like, as
opposed to the forced submission
displayed by the demons?**



99 Essential Doctrines

Demons

Demons are angelic beings who sinned against God and now continually work evil in the world today (Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1; Luke 10:18). Demons oppose God and seek to destroy His work, as seen in the Bible's description of Satan, the head of demons, who seeks to "steal, kill, and destroy." Though demons have power, they are limited by God's control and can only act within the constraints of what God permits. In the end, all of the demons will be cast into the lake of fire, for which it was originally created.

Main Point

Jesus has power and authority over evil spirits.

How might the authority and power of Jesus cause fear in people today?

What are some radical changes you've seen in the lives of people who trust in Jesus?

Christ Connection

When Jesus approached the man who was possessed by demons, even the demons recognized His authority. Jesus drove the demons out of the man, but when the people saw His authority, they were afraid and drove Him off. Jesus would later demonstrate His authority over sin and evil in a greater way through His crucifixion and resurrection. While many continue to reject Him, one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus is Lord (Phil. 2:9-11).

What is your level of desire to walk daily with the Savior, Jesus Christ?

no desire

eager desire



In Defense



The demons identifying themselves as “Legion” indicated the strength of the demons. A Roman military legion consisted of about 6,000 soldiers (the number of pigs in Mark 5:13). The name Legion thus serves to indicate a large number (because we are many), explains the supernatural strength of the man, and magnifies the fact that Jesus was the more powerful One (Mark 1:7; 3:27). Furthermore, pigs were unclean to Jews, and herding them was forbidden (Lev. 11:7; Deut. 14:8). The large herd reminds us that this event took place in a Gentile area (Mark 5:11). The unclean spirits begged Jesus not to send them out of the region (Mark 5:10), and then, they begged to be sent into unclean animals (Mark 5:12).



Head

What does this account teach about the difference between fear and faith?

How does faith lead us into a deeper and richer relationship with Jesus?



Heart

What are some examples of demonic activity today?

What have you found helpful in your own spiritual journey to resist the schemes of the devil?

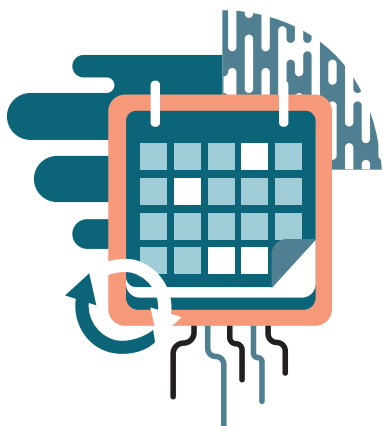


Hands

How does Jesus' instructions to the man to go and spread the good news apply to us?

How does this account challenge us to be bold and not shy away from people who may be labeled as "difficult" or on the fringes of society?

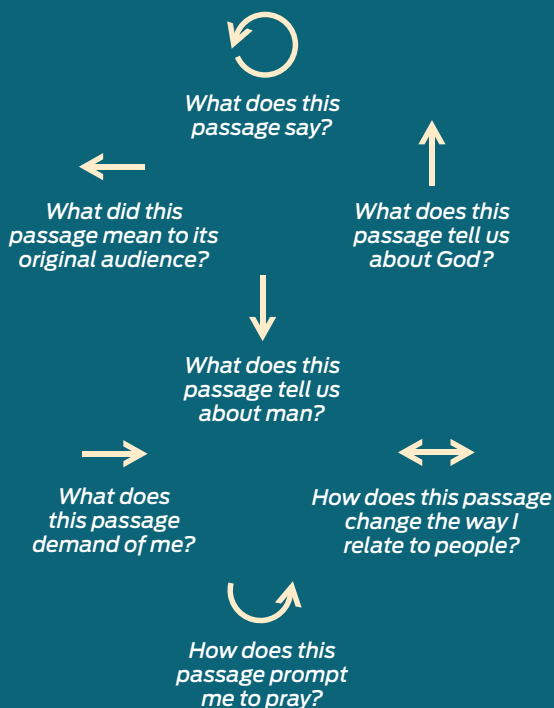
Daily Devotions



Day 1

Luke 8:26-33

The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



In His brief conversation with the demon-possessed man, Jesus asked for the demon's name. He did not do this as a means to gain power over it. He already had the power. Jesus needed no magic or ritual to free the man from his oppressor. He is the Son of the Most High God, and one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11). But it is worth noting that at this moment, the demon-possessed man fell at Jesus' feet. While the fullness of Jesus' rule hasn't been fully realized by us, Jesus remains sovereign nonetheless, a truth even the demons know full well.

Because Jesus is sovereign over this world, over all things both physical and spiritual, we can know that nothing, including the sinful and scary work of demons, has the power to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:39). By faith in Jesus, we are forever free to live, run, fall, and crawl in His never-ending love.

How does Jesus' sovereignty over all things encourage you to step out in the obedience of faith?

Luke 8:34-37

The people in the Gerasene region asked Jesus to leave, and it is natural to wonder why. He could have healed people; He could have cast out more demons; He could have provided satisfying meals. But the Scripture passage simply says they were afraid.

It is common here to analyze the people's state of mind and conclude that perhaps they were a bit upset and unnerved that a large herd of pigs had just been destroyed in the sea. The idea is that financial concerns weighed heavy upon them and that Jesus just couldn't be trusted not to cause the destruction of other sources of income, so they asked Him to leave.

But our main goal in reading and studying the Bible is to go where the authors and the Author—God Himself—want us to go. The text says they were “afraid” and had “great fear.” This fear was not aimed at the loss of pigs but at the One who had the power to command demons.

How have you experienced fear directed toward God? How did you respond to that fear?

Luke 8:38-39

This brief passage contains a subtle yet beautiful statement about the deity of Jesus. As the Son of the Most High God, Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity. The “legion” of demons possessing the man knew this to be true, and it seems their spiritual knowledge rubbed off on him.

Jesus refused the man's request to join in His travels, but He gave him a mission instead—go home and declare what “God has done for you.” This the man gladly obeyed; after all, he had been freed from his demonic oppression. But curiously, his obedience involved a slight adjustment in the message he was told to proclaim. He did go home, and he did tell what God had done for him, but he did so by proclaiming what “*Jesus* had done for him.” Previously, Jesus' disciples had wondered “Who is this?” when Jesus calmed a storm on the sea with a word (Luke 8:25). The man whose soul had been calmed and saved with a word had no need to question—Jesus is the divine Son of the Most High God.

What are some ways you will honor the Son of the Most High God with your thoughts, words, and actions?

Day 4

Luke 11:14-16

What sort of ailments are demons not responsible for? They drove a man mad in Luke 8 and here prevented a man from speaking. Demons were also attributed with seizures and deafness in the Gospels (Mark 9:17-27). Satan was guilty of causing natural disasters and boils that affected Job (Job 1–2). It seems there could be no end to the mischief, torment, and destruction perpetrated by demons in the spiritual realm.

But we must be careful not to give demons more credit than they are due. Not every ailment is the direct result of a demon's work (John 9). We shouldn't neglect going to the doctors and hospitals when sick. Nor should we ignore the reality that spiritual forces do manifest their work in tangible ways, for good or for ill. Beyond these points, we must remember that God alone is sovereign. Demons can only go as far as God allows them to go, and they can never hold sway over God's children.

How do you reconcile the activity in the spiritual realm with what you see and experience in the physical realm?

Day 5

Luke 11:17-23

Jesus knew people were questioning His power to command and exorcise demons. But logically, this made no sense. If Jesus cast demons out by the power of Beelzebul, another name for Satan, then this would have been evidence of an internal turf war among the demons. A kingdom divided from within has no strength to defend from without.

So, logically, Jesus wasn't casting demons out by the power of Satan, and if not that, then He must have been doing so by the power of God. Instead of a coup or infighting, Jesus was demonstrating His superior status and strength over spiritual matters. He marched into this world under the sway of demonic forces and began dismantling their power because He is the superior force.

So the question arises: Who will you side with? The demonic forces of this world that have lost and are losing or the victorious Son of the Most High God, the rightful and good ruler over all of creation?

How can you help people see the logic of siding with Jesus? Pray that they will see and believe in Him for salvation.