

Theme: All power in heaven and earth is in the hands of the redeemer. He wields that power to His own glory and to the blessing and benefit of all those who “hear the Word of God and do it.”

Background: Jesus’ teaching in Luke 8:1-21 is with authority, revealing to His glory and truth to those who belong to him. Now he demonstrates that in His command over the physical and spiritual worlds.

Introduction: We call them the “Forces of Nature” – and they teach us how small we really are.

I. Jesus Rules The Earthly Realm

A. Jesus rests

- Traveling under Jesus’ orders, He is with them.
- Jesus must rest!

B. Disaster strikes

- Sudden storms not unusual
- Jesus “rebukes” this storm
- Real danger Psalms 69:1,15; Acts 27:14ff

C. Jesus wakes –

1. “We are perishing!”
 - What kind of help did they expect?

NOTE: We call out in our need. We must recognize our helplessness before the Lord.

2. Jesus speaks! (Mark 4:39 “Peace. Be still.”)

- Over more suddenly – and completely - than it began.
- Jesus can “overrule” his laws in nature.

JESUS RULES THE EARTH.

D. Where is your faith?

- Jesus was with them. He sent them out.
- Was he going to lose them?
- They had forgotten everything they had seen.

II. Jesus Rules the Spiritual Realm

A. Demon possession?

1. Modern day beliefs?
 - Physical possession?
 - Intellectual possession? (2 Corinthians 11:14)
2. In Jesus day?
 - Heightened activity
 - Satan recognizes the threat to his “kingdom”
3. Why possession?
 - Destroy the image of God
 - Mimic the incarnation?

B. A man “possessed”

1. A pathetic soul
2. A threat to Jesus?

C. Jesus commands the spirits (29)

1. The man's plea?

- a. "What have you to do with me?" i.e. "Leave me alone!"
- b. "Don't torment me!"
- **As if Jesus were as wicked as they themselves.**

2. Your Name?

- a. The man

NOTE: Jesus saw a human being! And He was full of compassion.

- b. "*Legion*" – for they were many!

3. "Begged Him" (31) (Luke 4:34)

- "What have you to do with us?"

D. Demon possessed pigs!

a. Demons:

- Don't want to be disembodied. (cf. Romans 10:7; Revelation 20:1-3)

b. Jesus:

- Kept demons from roaming free?
- Did not kill the pigs – the demons did! Wild with terror.
- Gave physical evidence of the invisible power of the demons.

III. Fear Him! Contrast of two "fears"

A. The disciples' fear

1. Fear for their lives

- **Where is your faith??**

2. Fear of the Lord? They marveled!

- They can't be away from him

B. The Gerasenes' fear

1. Found this man "in his right mind"

- Instantly restored!

- What will he find in me that needs to be driven out??

2. Fear for their livelihoods?

3. Confirmed their *unbelief*.

C. My fear of the Lord?

- Answering the question, "Who is this man?"

IV. Jesus Rules For Good

1. The "storms" of this life are for our good?

- Learn to trust? Believe? Find strength in him?
- Life's storms are under His control.

Where is your faith?

2. Spiritual battles for our good?

- Trust His power – not ours!
- He brings *complete transformation!!*