

# What Devils Know and Men Ignore

*Gospel According to Luke*

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If you will, look with me in your Bibles to Luke 8 as we continue our study here in the Gospel according to Luke. Remember, he was a physician that the LORD taught of Himself. We really don't have any idea exactly when that would have occurred but it's clear that he was the LORD's. He wrote not only this Gospel but also the book of Acts; he accompanied the Apostle Paul on his journeys later on. But a very clear and definitive Word here from the LORD through his pen as to the LORD Jesus Christ and His work that He came to accomplish here on earth.

In the world, they have a view of a Jesus, that's the best way I know how to put it, that is, a beggar god. He came to try to, in essence, win men's favor and vote. That little j-e-s-u-s has a lot of servants running around the world today trying to get people to believe on that one but I'm thankful that such is not the case with our LORD Jesus Christ. There's a difference. Here revealed in Scripture we have a very clear revelation of Who He is and His power as the God-man and all that He came to accomplish, He did accomplish. He didn't fail in one thing. The Old Testament says of Joshua, when he led the children of Israel into the land, the Promised Land, that there was not one Word of God that failed and that Joshua was a picture of our LORD Jesus Christ. There is not one thing you can find wherein Christ failed.

So to preach a Jesus, little j-e-s-u-s that says, "Well, he came and he lived a life of example and he died his death and now there are just so many that just won't believe on him and God's going to have to send them to hell anyway," that's not the Christ of Scripture. There is not one in hell for whom Christ died. There is not one that the Father gave Him that will ever suffer condemnation or judgment and nothing is going to keep Christ from drawing those to Himself. He said that, "I'll build My Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against Me."

So that's what we see here. We saw how He stilled the storm in verses 22 to 25, but now verse 26, "And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. And when He went forth to land, there met Him out of the city a certain man." I've mentioned before, I like that word "certain." It doesn't mean certain as in generally, but certain, a certain man, "which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down

before Him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with Thee, Jesus," capital J-e-s-u-s, "Thou Son of God Most High? I beseech Thee, torment me not. (For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught Him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought Him that He would not command them to go out into the deep." In other words, to condemnation, hell. "And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought Him that He would suffer them to enter into them. And He suffered them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought Him to," stay? Is that what your Bible says? "Besought Him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and He went up into the ship, and returned back again. Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought Him that He might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee." Who did it? Jesus. Who did it? God. He's the God-Man. "And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him."

There's so much here, we're not going to be able to cover it all and we'll come back to it, but for today, our thoughts are directed on this subject and that is "What Devils Know and Men Ignore." What devils know. What do devils know? Well, here in verse 28 when our LORD had encountered this demoniac and notice, they did not initially speak because verse 29 indicates that the LORD had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. In commanding them to come out of the man, they said, "What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, thou Son of God Most High? I beseech Thee, torment me not." Even in that expression of these devils in declaration, they say more about the LORD Jesus than what you hear the common man today expressing. The name Jesus just flows off of the lips of people, in fact, it's a swear word. I don't hear people saying, "O Buddha! O old George Washington!" You know, they might get in trouble for that. It's not politically correct but it doesn't bother many just to take the name of the LORD in vain.

That shows just how depraved the heart of men is, how depraved and what devils know that men ignore and it ought to weigh on our minds even as we open this Word week in and week out. Who is this One that is the Word of God that was made flesh and came and dwelt among us? Are we, in any sense, overcome with the awe and wonderment? Even as I read there in Hebrews 2, that He should be made a little lower than the angels. The Creator Who created all things but was made a little lower than the angels, condescended to come and identify with such sinners as we are but that's what we're seeing here.

And nothing was going to inhibit our LORD from accomplishing what He came to do and what we see here is those that He came to save. When I read here that there were many that observed these things, many that saw this one man when it was all said and done and it says in verse 35, "out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind," and it says, "they were afraid." You see, there are different types of fear. A person can be afraid and tremble. I fear that there are many that even hear this Word preached that are like the rattling of the bones in Ezekiel, they tremble a little bit, their conscience is pricked, but given time, as I mentioned before, cattle eating away and a butcher truck pulls up and they pull one out and they all look and watch until the truck's down the road and then they go right back to eating, right back to where they were.

That would be our case should the LORD leave us to ourselves, and even these, you talk about having the spirit of the devil, these devils beseeched the LORD not to torment them, in essence, to put it off. "If You've come to destroy us," that's the sense that they had, "Don't cast us into the deep," that word that is used there in verse 31, "they besought Him that He would not command them to go out into the deep." I don't believe that any of us really have an idea of what it is to be separated from God forever. People have these little jokes about Hell and judgment and how they're going to answer for themselves. There isn't going to be any answer. This matter has already been settled at the cross, either Christ paid your debt or He didn't. The sheep and the goats have already been divided. The Son of Man has already come in His glory, in that sense.

He came to accomplish a work and it's not how men think. Who would have thought that this demoniac of the Gadarenes was one of the LORD's? Imagine the surprise even of the disciples all the way through this storm, they didn't know how the LORD was leading, they were just as ignorant as anybody and then they observe all of this for one man, and then get back in the boat and go back again. You know, if it was modern-day so-called evangelism, they would be saying, "Oh, wait a minute, we can't leave yet. Look at all these crowds. We've got a meeting here."

But the LORD came for one, one of His sheep, just like He did the Samaritan woman, it was needful that He go through Samaria, even though that's not the path the Jews normally took, to meet her at that hour, in that place, to reveal Himself in her, and then go His way. And if we're one of those, we understand and we come back and say, "Why me?" Of all this world of wickedness, myself being no different, how is it that God would be pleased to show Mercy and even give me just an inkling of His Grace even through His Word? Do I know Him as I should? No, but that doesn't matter. If I'm His, He knows me. That's all that matters.

The LORD knew this one. He was in a state where he couldn't know himself. He was out of his mind but when the LORD had revealed Himself in him, verse 35 sums up the Testimony of every one that the LORD Jesus came to save. When He's pleased to reveal Himself in them, these three things will be so. We'll come back to this next time, but sitting at the feet of Jesus. Sitting is a position of rest, as opposed to running the hills and the caves and the tombs that no man could bind him; too strong for man but not too

strong for Christ. There is no case too hard for God. Our LORD said that when the disciples marveled, "Who then can be saved?" He said, "With man, it is impossible." He didn't say it was difficult, it's impossible, but with God, all things are possible. In other words, what God has purposed, He'll do. He'll accomplish.

So that sitting represents that rest, but here again, clothed. He was naked. You say, "Where did he get his garment?" Christ must have taken his garment and clothed him. I don't see Christ borrowing anything from another person. This was His work. He clothed. This one is clothed who before was naked.

That pictures that imputed righteousness in which any of us stand, otherwise we're naked before God. Any righteousness that we think we have is just but fig leaves. Ask Adam and Eve how that worked. Not only the fig leaves didn't cover their nakedness, but those are pretty uncomfortable. I don't know if you've ever rubbed up against fig leaves but they itch. There's no satisfaction in works. You've got people digging and scratching and thinking, "Ah, this isn't helping any." They go from false doctrine to false doctrine.

But here was one sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed in, what? In his right mind. Now the world says, "You're out of your mind." They'll tell you, they'll tell me, "You're cutting out a whole world by stating that salvation is of the LORD and only those that Christ died to save given to Him by the Father will be saved. Who else believes this? Are you out of your mind?" No, it's just the opposite. Many that have been taught of the LORD, that look to Him, they're in their right mind.

And the word "righteous" is the word "right." That righteousness, when the LORD causes you to see that it's not in here, it's in Him, you're in your right mind. The people that are out of their mind are thinking that somehow they're going to stand before a Holy God and answer to a Holy God with some kind of righteousness that they have put on, and that the Scriptures are declared to be worthless, dirty, filthy rags. But that's the lesson.

So coming back here, we see our LORD, and I'll tell you, the devil is an enemy that is mightier than any one of us. You stop and think that this is the one that is a created angel but in God's purpose, this was no surprise to God, he was created for this reason, just as Judas was called the son of perdition, he was created a vessel of wrath. And you can argue all you want to, why would God? It's his world.

But here's Satan that Christ said in another portion, "I saw Satan as lightning fall from Heaven." What he was saying was that he was there and that that rebellion of this one against Him, the Son of God, that's what it was about.

You might ask, "Well, why is Satan so angry? Why is he so wrathful against the Son of God?" That's where it all began, that he sought as Isaiah 14 says, to exalt his throne above the LORD's, above Christ's. God from eternity, the Father had purposed that the glory belonged to His Son alone and He cast him down.

Then God created the world. You know, when you read in John 1 it says there that there's nothing that was made but was made by Christ. So when He made the world and Satan came now to tempt Adam and Eve, just remember that Satan is not omniscient. People give far too much credit to Satan, in one sense, because they think he's omnipotent. No, he's a created being and in many, in every way where he goes forth, he's accomplishing the will of God the Father. That's what would cause him to even be angrier, the fact that he, not even Satan can live and move without Christ giving him the authority. You read in Job, that was his issue with God dealing with Job. When it says, "Presented himself before God," who was there? That was Christ. This enmity has always been.

So when he came to tempt Adam and Eve, he's like the serpent, subtle. You know, if a thief comes in to rob your house, he's not knocking on the door unless it's like some crazy guy did in Africa one time, came and told my boys, "We're going to come back while your parents are at worship tonight and we're going to steal the stuff in your house." I remember Travis coming running in saying, "There's a man out there." He was a crazy man. We put a guard out there and sure enough, he came back and we caught him. But for the most part, a thief, he's studying how it is he can get in without you knowing it.

That's the subtlety of Satan. He entered into one of these serpents and deceived Adam and Eve. But here's the point why I say that: because he brought Adam down in his best state, and if that's the case, who are we, who is man to think that somehow he can take him on today? How many people have you heard say, "Well, Adam may have fallen but I wouldn't have?" Well, you fall every day. You know, if in your depraved state or Adam before he was even a sinner was brought low, what sort of opportunity or chance, if I could use that word, that you think you have to be able to withstand Satan? No, he's an enemy greater than any one of us. Even as we sang the hymn there, we're not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. There's not a one of us that could stand.

So Christ coming here and dealing with these that are described here as devils and in verse 30 when the LORD said, "What is thy name?" it wasn't so much the LORD didn't know. Again, when he asks questions, it's to show those around Him. He said, "Legion: because many devils were entered into him." Here again, I don't know as we even have an inkling of just how wicked a world that we live in. We pick and choose when something happens, "Man, how could somebody do...?" But the whole world lieth in wickedness.

Then consider this heart, not just what's out There but in this heart and the fact that who we are, in a fallen depraved state, comes from this one who came and tempted Adam and Eve and brought them down. But again, it wasn't a surprise to God because even before there was ever a fallen sinner, there was a Savior that was ordained. You say, "Why a Savior?" Because God purposed a fallen world. He purposed the world exactly as it is. We've got a bunch of people running around trying to change it and they go after people's votes, they spend billions of dollars promising to do this or that, but do you know what? It's going to be exactly as the LORD Himself has ordained it.

So, you know, let's talk about something else besides politics. These are mere men. They'll be raised up for a while and be gone tomorrow, just dust, flesh. Who is it that never changes? Well, it's this same One, the LORD Jesus Christ, and that's how we see Him, coming not only in stilling the winds as we saw already in verse 25. When they saw that it says, "They being afraid wondered." Why does Scripture put extra words for explanation? Well, it's because it's to make a difference between that wonderment that caused them to say, "What manner of man is this?" In other words, "Who is this?" Isn't that how the Spirit teaches us as to Who Christ is and all that's summed up in His person, His glory, His beauty, His honor? As opposed to over here in verse 35, when these came and saw this one sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind, they were afraid, but not with wonderment. They were afraid in the sense of, "How do we get rid of this man? If we leave him around here too long, he's going to ruin us all," because all of their livelihood had just gone and drowned in the sea.

So verse 37, again, "they were taken with great fear," but not the same as up there in verse 25 in wonderment, but fear in the sense of, "I've got to get over this and we've got to move on." You know, that's like men today, they turn to other things whenever they sense a fear or a guilt or anything due to their own depravity. They turn to drink. They turn to drugs. They'll go to the doctor, "Prescribe me something to make me feel better." These are all ways in which men find alternative ways rather than dealing with who they are before a Holy God.

But even the devils, the Scriptures say, and this is where, again, they have a lot to teach us where men are ignorant because in James 2:19, if you look there, even the devils tremble. It says, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." But that's not salvation. You can tremble all you want to. Felix did before Paul, he said, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." There is no evidence that he ever turned to the LORD which means that God, again, in His sovereign purpose, left him to himself. You can come right up to the door but that's not salvation.

Oh, to be one of these here like this demoniac of Gadarenes upon whom the LORD set his affection. You know, he was just discovered to the disciples as they came off the boat through that storm and all of a sudden here's this man that met them. Even then, it was only as the LORD revealed that this was one of His and the reason why He'd come that they could see it. We don't know these things ahead of time. No one would have thought.

But I believe that the description of this man describes many today in religion because here's where, again, men are deceived because they think the devil's at work out there when men kill one another, you've got prostitution, you've got all this stuff, "That's the devil. That's the devil. That's the devil," when Scripture calls false places of worship or places of false worship synagogues of Satan. I will tell you there is no greater deception of Satan today than in religion where when men look at it, they call it good but even as the LORD said there in one of the prophets, "You call good evil and evil good." We've got this thing turned upside down if we're left to ourselves. Men are calling men's works good and they're calling the work of Christ evil.

Now how do they call the work of Christ evil? They won't call the work of Christ evil if you're just preaching a Jesus that loves everybody and wants everybody saved and begging everybody and going around trying to save everybody. There's no offense there. The offense even is here, is the LORD entering into a house as the strongman binding the strongman in that house and delivering that one, and then getting in his ship and going on. You know, people say, "Well, that's not fair. What about all these others? How is it that he could just come for this one and then leave the rest?" How many times have you heard that? People aren't talking about a God being unfair that just loves everybody, he's like the little grandfather sitting in his rocking chair, the kids misbehave, "Oh well, you know, come on. Hark, hark," like my grandmother used to say when we'd get a little loud. "Hark, children. Hark."

That's their view but to this one here when you start presenting a sovereign Christ Who came into this world to save a particular people and those that He saves not the ones that men imagine. Who would have imagined that this demoniac of Gadarene that they had already given up on, tried to reform him and do everything, but alas, okay, if anybody's a reprobate, he is, and this is the one that the LORD came and delivered, sat in his right mind. The evidence of the Spirit was he desired to go with Christ and the LORD said, "No, go back there and live in that hostile environment."

In the world, you shall have tribulation and sometimes you wonder, why aren't we all together in the same place? The LORD hasn't purposed it for this life. He's going to spread us out. "Go back there in that work place. Go back there in that family and you be the one object of God's Grace, and the rest, I'm just going to leave them alone." That's where we cannot be thinking even in terms of religion like, "Well, God wants everybody saved so I need to be praying for all these, my relatives." If the LORD hasn't burdened you for them, anything you say is not going to get it done. Not your prayers. Not your willing. Not your witnessing, all this stuff.

But what did He say? "Tell how great things God hath done unto thee." You know, the Spirit never convinces anyone of somebody else's sin so when you're in a crowd and you're sitting there trying to point out everybody else's sin, that's not how the LORD has ever taught any one of His own but to testify. What you do is tell him what He's done for this sinner. I don't know what He's purposed for you but let me just tell you what He's done for me, the sinner, and how He was pleased to show Mercy and Grace to this one.

You know, that's what He told this man here, but the blindness, this is what I want you to see, the blindness where Satan and his minions, their one objective is to blind men lest they should see the Glory of God in the LORD Jesus Christ. He's their enemy. He's their enemy. He has been from the beginning and he continues to be.

Look with me at a couple of Scriptures here. In 1 Timothy 4, as I said, we're going to come back to this but just laying the Foundation. What devils know that men ignore. You see, the devils know now, they didn't know it then that it was going to be through the death of Christ that actually He would be saving a people, but what they know now here in 1 Timothy 4:1, it says, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some

shall depart from the Faith," wherever you see "the Faith" in Scripture that's that body of Truth, objective in connection with Christ and His death; it has Christ and His death as its Object. The Faith once delivered unto the saints, they'll depart from that Faith. It doesn't mean they'll depart from believing. If you've ever believed on Christ, Christ keeps you. There's no departing from that Faith that the LORD gives but they depart from the Truth. But notice, "giving heed to seducing spirits, and," what? "Doctrines of devils." What is he talking about? Well, he's talking about people sitting in places like this holding a Bible, hearing a man preach, but their attention is not on Christ and Him crucified, the preacher is not even pointing them that Way, he's pointing them to works; he's pointing them to duties; he's pointing them to obligations, things to do. That's how Satan, I believe, from the beginning, took the eyes of Adam and Eve off of the Tree of Life, which is Christ, onto the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Jeff and I were just talking about that, that men are still enthralled with knowledge of good and evil, what's right and what's wrong, ethics. Have you ever taken a college course in ethics, situational ethics? Well, is this the right? Greeks love wisdom and the Jews seek a sign, that's what Paul said, but we preach Christ, the Wisdom of God and the Power of God.

But this is how men are being deceived and it says, "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." If a man departs from the Faith, if God causes him to believe a lie, they'll never believe. They'll never repent. Those are those the LORD gives over to themselves.

"Forbidding to marry," verse 3, all commandments of men, "commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and," what? "Know the Truth," have been taught the Truth as it is in Christ. So that's how it's described by Scripture, people that are under the delusion of works religion and Satan would have it so. That's his work.

Look in 2 Thessalonians 2:11. But men don't know that. They see a parking lot full on a Sunday and they think, "I'm going to go and check that one out. That looks like they've got a lot of good things going on." And they'll go in and there's activities for kids and there's different types of social groups and everything and they think, "Man, there's a lot of love in this place. I'm going to bring my family back here." But Christ is not there. It's a synagogue of Satan. The deception is in natural man, that's what they do, they perceive not the things of God because they're only Spiritually discerned.

Here in 2 Thessalonians 2, and I know a lot of people trying to figure out who is the antichrist, in verse 7 it says, "the mystery of iniquity doth already work." He's just describing the man of iniquity but he's not talking about a man, he's talking about a spirit. The same spirit that was in this demoniac that caused him to run toward destruction because anybody in whom Christ has not yet been revealed is running headlong to destruction.

And it says in verse 8, "then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the LORD shall consume with the Spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the Brightness of His coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with," what? "All power and signs and lying wonders," verse 10, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness." Why is it called unrighteousness? Well, it's because men think it's righteous but God calls it unrighteous, it's deceptive, something that's deceptive, it's not apparent. That's why people get away with counterfeit money. You can look at some money and think this is good and you turn it in at the bank and they put it under that light or put that pen across it and they tell you, "We've got to hold this. This is fake, false." Wait a minute, I just got paid for a job. It doesn't matter. It can't go back into circulation. You might have been deceived but it's worthless.

That's how many are in their profession. Does Satan know that? Does the devil know it? Do the minions? Yes. Given the power, they would retain sinners in that. That's why the LORD said, "I'll build My Church and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." He's entering in to deliver such a one as this demoniac.

It says, "because they received not the love of the Truth." I want you to see that because there are a lot of people walking around saying, "Well, I know, God's sovereign." They kind of shrug their shoulder. "Yeah, I can see that, how Christ would have died for a particular people." They have no love for the Truth and the reason is because you find them sitting in places here and listening to preachers that deny Him and it makes no difference. It makes no difference.

But it says here, "they received not the love of the Truth, that they might be saved," delivered from that delusion.

Then verse 11, "for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." He is the sovereign God. It's like those that, after He had delivered the demoniac, asked Him to depart and He did. It wasn't that He was serving them but that was His intention all along anyway. They were just affirming why He was leaving.

And it says, "That they all might be damned." That's strong language, isn't it? "Who believed not the Truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Now our time is about gone but I want you to think about that they all might be damned who believe not the Truth. How many people do you know right now that truly believe they're damned? I don't run into anybody. They use that word. They'll even put God's name on the front of it as if they have some power to cause God to damn this and damn that, but they don't ever believe they're damned and the proof is whenever such die, I don't care how they lived their lives, the family's going to find some preacher to say some good about him and walk them into Heaven, talk them into Heaven.

But as far as what the devils know and men ignore, when you come back here to Luke 8, these devils knowing their condemnation, there's no question. Peter said that they've been reserved in chains, not physical chains but unto the day of judgment and they know it. There's no way out of this. When they said in verse 28, Jesus commanded them to come

out, "What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God Most High? I beseech Thee, torment me not." They know their end whereas men don't.

Now when they begged the LORD, it says there in verse 31, "they besought Him that He would not command them to go out into the deep. And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought Him that He would suffer them to enter into them." And it says, "And He suffered them." This is not our LORD catering to the whim and wishes of the devil. No, again, they were just expressing exactly what He had purposed all along. He wasn't going to send them into the deep because that wasn't their time. There is that time that He has determined already in which all of Hell shall be delivered up and cast into Hell. The Scriptures in Revelation describe it as a place prepared for the devil and his angels and all that would follow him. There's a true damnation that devils know of, but men ignore and yet very real.

Here we see again, Christ's authority, this is it, to save whom He will and to damn who He will. Blessed be the name of the LORD. You say, "Well, how could He take and command them to go into the swine?" Because the swine are His anyway. Anything that we have in this life is borrowed. I don't care what it is, and if the LORD's pleased to take it, blessed be the name of the LORD. Let's don't ever think that these are ours. He can prosper us. He can bring poverty because it's His to do with what He will. Shall not the Judge of the earth do right? That's it.

Well, next time we want to come back to this because when we consider the deep and desperate state of this Gadarene and consider that no man could reform him, it says there in verse 29, "oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters." That's what men do by the law and commandments, they try to straighten people out and it says, "he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness." We were once of that lot. We subjected ourselves to men's ordinances and commandments and followed what they said, thinking that somehow we could have salvation but when it pleased God to reveal Christ in us, all that changed and just like this man, we are found sitting at the feet of Jesus. That's a position of humiliation and humility. And clothed, not in our own garments but that of what Christ came and worked out. And in his right mind. Oh, to be there. There is no greater Blessing than that.