

September 17, 2023 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier

Luke 8:26-39 – “Jesus- Victor Over Legion”

- A. Our text opens by saying that Jesus and His disciples “**sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.**” (v26).
- B. What were all these unclean pigs doing in the Jewish promised land in the first place?
– In Isa 9:1 God promised to make “**Galilee of the Gentiles**” glorious. “**The people who walk in darkness will see a great light**” (v2). Today’s text is a fulfillment of that glorious promise!

Jesus proved Himself as the eternal Son of God and Victor over Legion.	I. <u>JESUS CAST OUT LEGION</u> II. <u>TWO OPPOSING RESPONSES</u>
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I. JESUS CAST OUT LEGION → vv27-28

- A. This rather wild and peculiar, demon possessed man knew and feared Jesus.
1. He knew Him as “**Jesus, the Son of the Most High God**” (v28).
 - a. Saving faith is described as having 3 parts: knowledge, assent, & trust.
 - b. The demoniac only had a knowledge of who Jesus was. In like fashion, our merely knowing truths about who Jesus is not enough. Each of us must put our faith in Him that He lived for us and died for us and our sins. Pray for a vibrant trust God to live your life in light of the gospel.
 2. The possessed man feared Jesus because he knew the Son of God had power, authority, and a set time when He would send him along with all of Satan’s minions into “**torment**” (v28).
 - a. In Mat 8:29, he asked, “**Have You come here to torment us before the time?**”
 - 1) In v31, the group of demons in this man ask Jesus not to send them to the “**abyss**” or very deep place according to the Greek.
 - 2) This abyss is not intended to be a place of punishment only for Satan and the other fallen angels. After the resurrection of the just and the unjust, Rev 20 says death and Hades will be “**thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**”
 - b. Martin Luther in his hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, wrote, “And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, we will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us. The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him, his rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.”
- B. Notice how Jesus freed the man from demon possession. → vv29-31
1. It is hard to imagine the great dread of being demon possessed, yet being possessed by a multitude of demons is even more horrific!
 2. Jesus didn’t cast these demons into the lake of fire because that is appointed after He comes back as Judge of world.
 - a. Jesus instead agreed to “**permit them to enter the swine**” (v32).
 - b. We don’t know why; however, it is evident that the demons couldn’t control the pigs as well as one man.

II. TWO OPPOSING RESPONSES

A. Look at the fearful, unbelieving Gerasenes → vv34-37

1. No doubt the loss of a herd of many swine was a great financial burden for some.
 - a. The owners of the herd lost their livelihood.
 - b. The herdsmen lost their jobs.
 - c. Despite these losses, they should have rejoiced for the demon-possessed and tormented man who was **“clothed & in his right mind” (v35)**.
2. Because of the great power and authority He displayed, their fear may have been in what Jesus would do next. Much of their fear may have been the fear of the unknown. Because of their great fear, they asked Jesus to depart from their region.
3. Although a strange event, Christ allowing the demons to enter the pigs and then drown was a very kind mercy.

B. Rather than wanting Jesus to get away from him, the freed man wanted to follow Jesus. → vv38-39

1. Some followed Jesus because they saw Him perform a miracle.
 - a. Nathaniel believed Jesus was the Son of God and followed Him because Jesus told him, **“Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you” (Jn 1:48)**.
 - b. This man freed from a legion of demons had much greater cause to believe in Jesus and His power to save.
2. There is a very spiritual, loving motivation why Jesus turned this man away. Jesus told him in v39, **“Return to your house & describe what great things God has done for you.”**
 - a. The Gerasenes were fearful, yet Jesus didn’t want to leave them without a Christian witness.
 - b. **“The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.”**¹ His means of doing that among Gerasenes was by using one of their own to be a faithful witness.
 - c. The delivered man went above and beyond what Christ called him to do. → v39
 - 1) He did what Jesus said by telling his own household yet didn’t stop there.
 - 2) He proclaimed the power and deliverance through Christ to the whole city!
 - 3) In a like fashion you can proclaim to others what great things Jesus has done for you!

Review, conclusion, & further application:

¹ Lu 19:10