

LUKE I Jesus' Power Over Demons Text: Luke 8:26-39

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

Introduction:

—Bill Turner

1. Different People See this account in different ways...

- Psychologist: Mental Disorder. Psychiatrist: Chemical Imbalance. Sociologist: Childhood trauma
- Barclay thought the man cried out so loud it scared the pigs, causing them to run off the cliff and Jesus used that event to trick the man into thinking his so called demons left him
- Animal Rights Activist: The Pigs were mistreated. The Townspeople: said Just leave

2. The Bible is clear about the existence of evil and of Demons...

- a. Some think demon possession is an ancient belief to explain physical or mental problems.
- b. The Bible Does Not Make This Mistake—It Makes a Clear Distinction between the two:
- c. Demon possession could produce illness, but not all illness was attributed to evil spirits.

“And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him [Jesus] all that were sick, and them that were possessed with demons” (Mk. 1:32). [A Clear Distinction in the Greek]

3. But What are Demons? Bible also calls them “Evil Spirits” or “Unclean Spirits”

- That they are called spirits—indicates their basic metaphysical nature
- That they are called evil / unclean—indicates their moral nature.
- That they are called BOTH—unclean spirits (8:29) and Demons (8:30) one and the same

1. THE EVIL THAT ENSLAVES (v.26–29)

A. THIS MAN IS TORMENTED BY EVIL

We see how horrible life is under the enslaving power of evil

1. **POSSESSED**: Overpowered and Driven by Demons into the Wilderness
2. **POWERLESS**: to be free from demonic control that had seized and driven him into the wilderness
3. **ALIENATED** He lives among the tombs...
Without clothes / without a home / living and sleeping in a graveyard
4. **OUT OF CONTROL**: no one could tame him so they bound him w/ chains but he has the demonic strength to break them
5. **TORMENTED**: (Mk 5:5) **“And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.”**
6. **AFRAID**: When He Saw Jesus He Cries Out and Falls Down Before Him (v.28)

Everything about him shows how the presence of evil in his life has left him deserted & alone.

B. EVIL EXISTS — AND IS ALWAYS SELF-DESTRUCTIVE

1. **The Existence and Presence of Evil in this world is a Fact**
 - a) We See it's Destructive power in the world everyday on the nightly news
2. **But Since Secular Society rejects the spiritual implications of Good & Evil everything has to be explain as Social or Psychological forces...**

- a) But there comes a point where evil cannot just be explained away as a personality disorder or just a bad childhood
- b) Childhood trauma and Personality Disorders are terribly tragic—but they are incapable of explaining away the Depth and Depravity of Evil

3. A Professor at Columbia University wrote:

“A gulf has opened up in our culture between the visibility of evil and the intellectual resources available for coping with it.” “As the twentieth century has gone on, it has gotten harder and harder to say holocausts and ethnic cleansing and serial killing are just bad psychological and sociological adjustment... [the argument] that all evil has natural causes, scientific causes, psychological, social causes, is wearing thin.”

— Andrew Delbanco: ‘The Death of Satan’

[We see this after every mass shooting... Shallow Politicians do NOT have the intellectual or spiritual capacity to deal with the Spiritual reality of evil—so they fall back on policy, procedures, programs, but not the spiritual reality of evil]

C. DEMONIC DECEPTION IS JUST AS LETHAL AS DEMONIC POSSESSION

1. Not all evil appears as horrific as with this possessed man (2 Cor 11:13–15)

- a) Notice this is NOT about Demonic Possession—but Demonic Deception

**Q: What is Worse? —Demons possessing a person’s body?
—or the Devil deceiving a person’s soul?**

**Demonic Deception is just as lethal as demonic possession—
—Probably MORE lethal because it Destroys MORE people.**

- b) (2 Timothy 2:24–26) > ‘taken captive’ not by possession but by deception!

2. Some are Deceived & Enslaved by Evil but appear as normal or nice people

- a) It’s Only when their mask slips that it can be seen—and even then not everyone can

3. EXAMPLE: Ted Bundy was described as handsome, charming, intelligent...

- a) He helped run a political campaign in WA state—Went to Law school—intelligent
- b) But He Used his Charming Persona to Hide a Dark Side rarely seen from the outside

4. A Number of people said they sensed a darkness emanating from him

- a) Interviewers noticed his blue eyes would grow black as he described his crimes
- b) A woman who was an FBI Profiler who didn’t even know him happened to be seated next to him at a campaign dinner
- c) She said she felt some mysterious darkness emanating from him she had to leave.

5. Even though he tried to maintain his persona in interviews by describing his motives and crimes in the 3rd person...

- a) The night before his execution was his most candid interview w/ Dr. James Dobson
- b) He called the inner-voice inside him: ‘The Entity’ –
- c) Not Demon Possession — But A War Within Between Good and Evil

6. Evil Exists and some allow themselves to be consumed & controlled by it

- a) This is Why We Are given the armor of God and Word of TRUTH (Eph. 6:10–13)
- b) The Deception of the Enemy is Powerful... But...

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

2. THE POWER OF JESUS THAT SAVES (v.30–33)

A. EVEN DEMONS BELIEVE AND TREMBLE (James 2:19).

1. Demons Exist—they are super-natural spiritual beings. (Mt. 4:24; Js 2:19).
2. Demons are not atheists - they believe in God (James 2:19).
3. Demons do not deny the Deity of Christ (Luke 8:28).
4. Demons acknowledge the authority of Jesus Christ (Lk. 8:31).
5. Demons do not deny personal accountability (Luke 8:31).
6. Demons do not deny the existence of Hell (Luke 8:31; James 2:19).
7. Demons promote false doctrines (1 Tim 4:1 “doctrines of demons”)
8. Demons promote false worship (Dt 32:17; Ps. 106:37; Rev. 9:20)
9. Demons promote the rebellion of satan against God (Rev. 12:7-9; 16:13-16)

—Paul warned the Galatian Christians (*Galatians 1:8–9*)

Even an APOSTLE / or an ANGEL / Has NO Authority to Change the Gospel of Christ

—So Who is the better theologian: the demon? or liberal skeptic Bible scholars?

—Demons Know the Truth! (Hendriksen)

—If the Demons Believe and Tremble — then How Do Some Teach All You Have to Do is Believe — and then You Are Saved by Faith Only?

B. FACING THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST THE DEMONS BEGINS BARGAINING

1. They Recognized the DEITY of Jesus.
2. They Feared the AUTHORITY of Jesus.
3. They Knew the POWER of Jesus.
4. They Begged Jesus Not to Cast Them Into the Abyss.
5. But they Never asked for forgiveness... —They asked to enter the swine!

C. JESUS WILL NOT LET THIS MAN BE HELD HOSTAGE ANY LONGER

1. Jesus came to set the captives free

One Man’s Soul is Worth More Than All the World

2. And Think About What Jesus Did For Us! (*Colossians 2:12; 13b-14*)

- We were dead — Now We Are Alive!
- We were enslaved—Now we are Free!
- Were were Condemned – Now We Are Forgiven!

3. And Jesus triumphed over the spiritual forces of darkness at cross! (*2:15*)

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)

3. THE TRANSFORMATION THAT RESULTS (v.34–36)

A. WHAT A TRANSFORMATION!

1. He Had Been Possessed, Overpowered, Lost, Tormented and Afraid
2. Now he is clothed, calm, sitting at the feet of Jesus and in his right mind
3. And Now who is afraid? Not This Man — the People from the Town!
 - a) They Just walked into the middle of a Spiritual Battlefield!
 - b) Immediately After A Spiritual Victory Over Demonic Forces!

B. JESUS SETS THE CAPTIVES FREE

1. Think of All the Terrible things Jesus saves us from...
2. Slavery, Darkness, Emptiness, Hopelessness, Guilt, Shame, Condemnation
3. (1 Corinthians 6:9–11) That was the old person — this is the new

C. IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST HE IS A NEW CREATION! (2 Cor 5:17)

1. This man is now clothed, sitting at the feet of Jesus and in his right mind
2. Jesus Sets us Free and Makes us New!
–To be spiritually whole in a broken world
3. This is why Paul calls the Gospel the Power of God to save! (Acts 26:18)

4. THE REACTIONS THAT FOLLOW (v.36–39)

A. THE TOWNSPEOPLE (v.36–37)

1. Seeing the herd of swine dead — and the man alive in his right mind...
They Were Seized w/ Fear and Asked Jesus to Leave!
 - a) But What about all the sick, the blind, the demon possessed of their cities?
 - b) What About All the Teaching and Help Jesus Could Give Them?
2. Some people don't want their regular routine disrupted...
They would rather Jesus leave so they can be comfortable

3. They Asked Jesus To Leave and He Did!

- There is no record that Jesus ever went near that place again,
- which shows how far-reaching the consequences of 1 wrong decision I can be

B. THE FORMERLY POSSESSED MAN (v.38–39)

1. This man is so thankful that he asks to follow Jesus!

But Jesus asks him to stay and tell people what God has done for him...

Q: Why Would Jesus grant the request of the demons, to enter the pigs...

And He granted the request of the towns people for Him to leave...

but Then He did NOT grant the request of the man who He healed? Why?

A: Sometimes God giving people what they ask for is not necessarily a good thing

and refusing to grant what we ask for does not mean His disfavor!

2. This Man Honors Jesus by Doing What Jesus Asks...

- a) to tell his family and friends what God has done for him
- b) **They Asked Jesus to Leave**—but Jesus Leaves an Ambassador/Messenger
- c) The first Christian missionary in residence...

3. Your Transformed Life May Be The Only Gospel Sermon Some SEE!

CONCLUSION:

1. Jesus Sets us Free and Makes Us New! (2 Cor 5:17)
2. IF You are in Christ than He is in You
3. “He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)