

Luke 8:22-39

²² Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. ²³ But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. ²⁴ And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵ And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

²⁶ And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. ²⁷ And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs. ²⁸ 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, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. ²⁹ (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.) ³⁰ And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. ³¹ And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. ³² 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. ³³ 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. ³⁴ When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

³⁷ Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again. ³⁸ Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him

This is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. The account of the stormy sea journey and the encounter with the demon possessed man is also recorded in Mat 8:28 and Mrk 5:1 with the place name referred to as either Gaderenes, as in Mark and Luke, or Gergesenes as in Matthew. It is certain to raise many questions about demons and their power, perhaps even instill fear and worry, but the focus should be on Jesus and His great power. There are many lessons to be learned here.

Jesus tells His disciples that they must launch the boat and go to the other side. It doesn't record that the disciples saw storm clouds or questioned His timing. One thing for sure, Jesus was on a mission and when He said go they went. Jesus had an appointment with a man who needed help but while in route there was opportunity to increase the disciples faith.

They had already witnessed great things of Jesus which are already recorded in Luke. Also remember this doesn't account for the other miracles that Luke doesn't record; i.e. the water into wine.

Chapter	Miracles
4	Casting out demons, heals Peter's mother-in-law and others of various diseases
5	The miraculous catch of fish, healing of leprosy and the paralytic
6	Healed a man's withered hand
7	Centurion's servant healed, widow's son raised from the dead,

Most would say that they had seen enough miracles to have cemented their faith, but their reaction to the storm showed otherwise. I've been guilty of standing in awe of the disciples thinking "How could they not fully trust Him yet?" but presently we do the same thing. What has God done for us? How many times has He provided for us, healed us, or taken us through trials and difficulties? What do we still need to learn? I'm certain that none of the disciples in the boat wished to go through a storm. The verse said they "were in jeopardy" but Jesus knowingly, and willingly, took them into the storm and fell asleep.



Upon landing on the shores of the land of Gadarenes Jesus encounters the man possessed by many demons. The man was naked, scarred (Mark records that he cried and cut himself with stones), and no longer in control of his own body. The man was so terrible that other's couldn't even control him as they tried to bound him with chains and fetters. People were so terrified they wouldn't even pass that way. What a terrible state to be in and what a vivid picture of what sin does to a person. People can become so steeped in sin that they are no longer functional, useful, or wanted. Their sins have consumed them, and a rotten, filthy stench, and mess is all it produces.

Gal 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

So many questions come to mind here. We know that spirits exist and that spirits can be evil or good, but how did the devils (evil spirits) get in anyway? Did the man do something to allow them in? The Gospels record the majority of demon possessions in the Bible. If you recall in the OT an evil spirit came upon Saul in 1 Samuel 18. This spirit drove him mad and

filled him with so much jealousy, envy, and rage that he attempted to kill David, an innocent man and faithful servant. Or perhaps, Saul harbouring jealousy, envy, and rage brought the evil spirit on himself which is what I tend to believe.

Other instances:

- The beginning of Luke 8 mentions that women followed Jesus who had been “healed of evil spirits and infirmities” and “Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils”.
- In Matthew 12:22 and man possessed with a devil, blind and dumb was healed so that he could both speak and see.
- Matthew 15 records a Canaanite woman beseeching Jesus to heal her daughter who was “grievously vexed with a devil”.
- Mark 1 records several cases
- In Mark 9 we read of a man desperate to find someone who could help his son which had “a dumb spirit; and wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away.
- Acts 5 and 19
- In Luke 22, Satan himself entered into Judas
- The ultimate manifestation will be when Satan enters in to the body of the man referred to as the Antichrist.

In modern times we still have many spiritual issues but scientists, doctors, and government officials think these problems can be solved through education, drugs, some new program, meditation (on what I’m not sure), or the power of positive thinking. All of societies woes are a spiritual problem, and can only be resolved through Jesus and His Word. It includes racism, envy, hatred, jealousy, adultery, mental illness, depression, anger, sickness, mental illness, disease, or being deaf, blind, mute, or cripple. Even physiological problems are rooted in a spiritual cause; S-I-N which is ever present in our world. Sin keep us from thinking clearly and from being in our right mind.

The emphasis shouldn’t be on our problems, sin, devils, or Satan though as that only glorifies it. Glory belongs to God and Him alone. Just as the disciples experienced the power Jesus had over the winds and the waves, they witnessed His power over devils. There were many and they recognized and feared the Son of God. Jesus instantly, in the power of His Word, cast them out into the swine which ran violently into the sea and drowned. What amazing power, and how wonderful to know that this possessed man found someone who could help him. He was helpless and in a terrible state but after the Son of God most high came, he was found “sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in His right mind.” What power, what hope.



As always I hope you enjoyed the lesson, may God bless you and your families. Please feel free to share it with others.