

# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

*A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God*

## ***Demons Then and Now***

**Luke 8: 26-39**

After the storm at sea, Jesus and the disciples run into a storm on land, a storm in the form of a man who is out of his mind and out of control. All three synoptic Gospels report this incident and give us the account of a dramatic transformation.

### **I. Jesus, Demons, & Accommodation — Many Views**

- A. Liberal interpreters and literalists alike see Biblical events differently but often view contemporary events the same.
- B. Liberal interpreters view Jesus' deliverance ministry to demonized people as an accommodation to the superstition and limited understanding of psychological problems.
- C. Literal interpreters recognize the legitimacy of demonic bondage but often assign it to the confrontation of Jesus in the incarnation and/or to "primitive" people groups involved in animism and idol worship.
- D. Post enlightenment, Western humanistic materialism is slow to acknowledge demonic bondage, even among conservative Christian believers.

### **II. The Nature of the Problem**

- A. Getting our terms correct: the man was *demonized* because he had a demon (actually a "legion" of them!) The Greek terms actually used in the NT are *demonized* and *has a demon*. *Possession* and *obsession* are misleading terms introduced by the KJV translation leading to theological error.
- B. How does one become demonized?
  - 1. through sin which gives way to bondage
  - 2. through cultural and familial practices that "leave the door open"
- C. Can Christians become demonized?
  - 1. Paul's warning to the Ephesians is pointed: (Eph 4:27 & context)
  - 2. Luke 13:11-16: a daughter of Abraham has a spirit of sickness
  - 3. Your Master is the one whom you obey—we are not autonomous

### **III. Jesus, the Mighty Conqueror**

- A. The demonized man was freed from all of the demons that bound him.
- B. He was instantly restored to his right mind.
- C. He wanted with all his heart to follow Jesus as a devoted disciple.
- D. This is the way of deliverance, then and now.

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs. Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain;

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Explain the concept of *topos* in Ephesians and how it related to our own person.
2. How do demons gain influence in a person's life?
3. What kinds of sins are likely to lead to demonic bondage?
4. What are some of the most dangerous behaviors that could lead to demonization?
5. What steps should a person take to become free is they suspect that they are demonized?
6. Is it appropriate to seek help from other believers in the process of becoming free?

### NOTES

and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well. And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned. But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying, "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

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