

## Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

### "Jesus The Bondage Breaker"

#### When Satan Tries to Derail Your Destiny...

C.S. Lewis says, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

**Today's Big Question:** How can you overcome the darkness in the world around you?

**Passage Setting:** "Jesus has already performed exorcisms in this Gospel (4:31-36, 40-41; 6:18; 8:2), so why does Luke narrate yet another exorcism here? This one has unique characteristics that make it worthy of mention. (1) It is the first exorcism that occurs in Gentile territory, since Gerasa is located east of the Jordan. It shows how Jesus' ministry is expanding in scope. (2) This exorcism involves multiple possession, so it is a more intense encounter than previous ones. (3) This account deals more fully with an array of responses to Jesus' miracles, from the request of the locals for Jesus to depart to the transformation of the demon-possessed man into a witness for the Lord. (4) This miracle continues the sequence of four miracles in 8:22-56, where each one represents a different sphere of activity (nature to demons to disease to death). (5) Finally, this miracle is the only one where earthly creatures other than humans are involved. The pigs serve an important function, since their destruction pictures the kind of devastation inherent in demonic activity. Though demons themselves are unseen, the effect of their presence in the pigs illustrates just how dangerous they can be."<sup>1</sup>

#### Luke 8:26-39 (NKJV): A Demon-Possessed Man Healed

<sup>26</sup> Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" <sup>29</sup> For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?"

And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

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<sup>1</sup> Quote from Bock, D. L. (1996). *Luke* (p. 241). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

<sup>32</sup> Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. <sup>37</sup> Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

<sup>38</sup> Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

### Jesus The Bondage Breaker... When the Devil Tries to Derail Your Destiny

1. Meet a man who is currently in \_\_\_\_\_ bondage (v. 26-27).

**Scripture Insight:** [8:26](#) The city of the **Gadarenes** (see [Matt. 8:28](#)) was probably a town about five miles southeast of the Sea of Galilee. Whatever its exact location, it was situated in a predominantly Gentile region.<sup>2</sup>

- The disciples just got out of natural storm and are entering into a spiritual storm.
- Jesus was met by a man who was inhabited by demons.

**Scripture Insight:** [8:27](#) *demon-possessed man*. See note on [4:33](#). Matthew ([8:28](#)) refers to two demon-possessed men, but Mark ([5:2](#)) and Luke probably mention only the one who was prominent and did the talking. *tombs*. An isolated burial ground avoided by most people.<sup>3</sup>

2. Notice what happens when a person's life is \_\_\_\_\_ over by the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 27-29).

- The devil steals life away from your years.
- The devil robs you of your humanity.
- The devil destroys your life as he leads you to the graveyard.
- The devil drags you from sanity to insanity.
- The devil turns healthy fear of God into terror.
- The devil exchanges your freedom into captivity.

<sup>2</sup> Quote NKJV Thomas Nelson Study Bible.

<sup>3</sup> Quote from NIV Study Bible.

- The devil pushes you away from people who want to help you.
- The devil drives you from meaningful community to depressing isolation.

**I Peter 5:8** (NLT): Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

3. Observe the future \_\_\_\_\_ of Satan and his \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 28, 30-33).

- Satan knows his theology:
  - i. He knows *who Jesus is*—Jesus, Son of the Most High God
  - ii. He knows that His *future day* of Judgement is coming. The demons did not want to be punished before the Judgment at the end of time.
  - iii. He knows that there is a *place* of punishment for the devil, his fallen angels, and his followers.
- The man's name had changed to Legion because an army of demons was inside of him.

**Scripture Insight: 8:30 Legion:** This name reflects the fact that the man was possessed by multiple demons. A *legion* was a Roman military unit of about six thousand soldiers; thus the name suggests a spiritual battle.<sup>4</sup>

**Scripture Insight: What was the Abyss? (8:31)** The Greeks used this word to describe the underworld abode of demonic hordes, suggesting an unseen place so deep it is unfathomable. The New Testament uses this Greek word (*abyssos*) ten times—once ([Ro 10:7](#)) for the place of the dead (translated *the deep*) and nine times (here and eight times in Revelation) to describe the place of confinement for evil spirits and Satan.<sup>5</sup>

- Notice that the demons did not instantly obey Jesus. They were still rebellious until the very end.
- Unclean spirits seek out unclean pigs. Birds of a feather flock together.

**Scripture Insight: Mark 5:13** adds that there were 2,000 in this herd. Such a large herd of unclean animals suggests that Gentiles dominated the region. It also suggests that the number of demons was large (cf. [Mark 5:9](#)).<sup>6</sup>

- The end result: The wages of sin is death. The pigs' mass suicide illustrates this principle.
- Notice that the demons took the pigs down to their destruction.

**John 10:10**—The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

*How do you know if it is God or Satan?*

➤ Does this build me up or tear me down?

<sup>4</sup> Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

<sup>5</sup> Quote from NIV Quest Study Bible.

<sup>6</sup> Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.

- Does this make me more like Jesus or more like the world?
- Does this give me peace or make me feel dirty inside?
- Does this add life or destroy life?
- Does this line up with my calling or distract me from my calling?
- Does this make me better or bitter?

4. **Meet a man who has a \_\_\_\_\_ chance at \_\_\_\_\_** (v. 34-39).

- The man was restored by Jesus:

*What happens when Jesus breaks Satan's strongholds?*

1. Jesus restored his *humanity*.
2. Jesus restored his *dignity*.
3. Jesus restored his *mind*.
4. Jesus restored his *life*!
5. Jesus restored his *destiny*!

**Scripture Insight:** [8:35](#) sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind: This is a contrast to the same man who was roaming the tombs previously (vv. [27](#), [29](#)). The man's position at Jesus' feet paints a picture of true discipleship ([10:38-42](#)).<sup>7</sup>

- Not everyone celebrated the man's life change.
- The people asked Jesus to leave because He had messed with their god—money.
- Jesus commissioned the man: Tell your testimony to your family and friends.
- Jesus gives you the same commission: Go and tell what Jesus has done in your life to your family and friends.

**Challenge:** Each one reach one. Challenge for this week: Share the great things God is doing in your life to someone this week.

*What are you willing to do to reach the people in this community?*

- Share your faith.
- Invite the community to come to church with you. Offer to take them out to lunch afterwards.
- We are planning a huge outreach campaign in late August/early September for our Fall Launch on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

- If you would like to contribute financially to this project, designate your gift as "*Missions/Outreach: Fall Launch*"

**Sermon in a Sentence:** Jesus is the Bondage Breaker who can set you free today!

**Make a decision this week?** Please let us know on your Connection Card.

**Preview for next Sunday:** "When someone cuts in on your miracle" from Luke 8:40-56

<sup>7</sup> Quote from Thomas Nelson NKJV Study Bible.