

That's Not my name

Luke 8:26-39 (ESV)

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." ²⁹ For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. ³² Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. ³⁴ When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ³⁶ And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷ Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much **Jesus** had done for him.

Luke 8:26 (ESV)

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

- Southeast of the Sea of Galilee.
- This was Gentile territory - a herd of pigs!
- Jesus desired to go to the Gentiles with His message.

Luke 8:27 (ESV)

When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.

- Jesus was instantly met with demonic opposition.
- Notice he lived in isolation
- Had no sense of shame – seared conscience
- Avoidance of purpose or responsibility
- This man was under the control of these demons.

Mark 5:3-5 (ESV)

He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵

Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

Satan has no constructive purpose of his own; his tactics are simply to thwart God and destroy men.

J. I. Packer

Luke 8:28 (ESV)

When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.”

- Demons are terrified of Jesus’ presence
- He asked permission – Authority
- Satan & his demons are created beings under the authority of God.

James 2:19 (ESV)

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

Luke 12:4-6 (ESV)

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

John 10:10 (ESV)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

- An interesting observation is that demons recognize Jesus, understand who He is, know His power, and also seem to know their ultimate fate.

Revelation 20:10 (ESV)

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Luke 8:29 (ESV)

For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

- We see Satan’s agenda realized here
- The devil deceives in order to separate, possess & destroy.

Illustration: The scorpion and the frog

Luke 8:30 (ESV)

Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him.

- He had lost his identity
- A legion – 3k to 6k soldiers
- The disciples had to be overwhelmed again

Luke 8:31 (ESV)

And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

- I love that the demons knew Jesus was about to set this captive free. They just didn't know where they were headed, but were certain of where they did not want to be.
- The demons also knew they were powerless before Jesus and would have to do what He asked.
- They knew their ultimate destination

Why didn't Jesus just destroy these demons?

Matthew 8:29 (ESV)

And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

Luke 8:32-33 (ESV)

Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

- The god of this world can only do what God permits!
- This man was much more valuable to Jesus than 2k pigs
- We see the intention of the enemy in the pig's demise.
- Our world seems to value animals over people.

Luke 8:34-35 (ESV)

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

- The miracle of a changed life causes people to come to Jesus.
- What were they afraid of?
- How should we fear Jesus?

Luke 8:36 (ESV)

And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

- Did they value the pigs more than the man
- Are you afraid of God in an unhealthy way?
- Jesus answered their plea, we should be asking for quite the opposite!
- Are you afraid of the changes God wants to make in your life? In your own way are you asking Jesus to leave that area of your life?
- Do new creations make you nervous? It obviously freaks the world out sometimes.

Luke 8:38-39 (ESV)

The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹"Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

- Jesus sent out His first Gentile witness.
- They sent Jesus away, but they could not send away His message or the miracle evidenced by this healed man.
- It is God's desire that we return home a witness.

Applications

- Have you ran to Jesus and declared Him God so that He might rescue you from Satan and deliver you from darkness?
- What unclean areas of your life do you need Jesus' deliverance and healing?
- Have you gone back to share with those who knew you before you meet Jesus what He has done for you?
- That's not your name!