

**THE DEMONIZED MAN**

Ever meet a really scary person? That you just wanted to get away from? That you suspected was under the influence of demonic power? Jesus encountered such a man in Luke 8:26-39.

The disciples sailed across the Galilee after Jesus calmed the storm with just a word. He set foot on shore and was met by another kind of storm, a man troubled with unclean spirits. Such people are around today, and can be set free by the divine power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**DEGRADED MAN** - This was near Kirsas in the region of the Gerasenes, in the southeastern side of the lake called the Decapolis because of the ten cities of Gentile inhabitants. Luke says this man was "demonized," under the influence of unclean demonic spirits. His oppression was expressed by not wearing clothing, and living among tombs away from people.

He was a danger to himself and others. The Old Testament prohibits nudity as being degenerate. His condition was a distortion of the "imago dei" as made in the image of God. And he is a picture of all of humanity which is fallen because of sin, and is in need of a divine deliverer.

**DESPERATE MAN** - Verse 28 says that 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!*" This is another evidence of demonic activity, because otherwise how would he know who Jesus was, if he were merely deranged?

"*Son of the Most High God*" is the incredible title "El Elyon" or "God most high." So he is ascribing deity to the Lord Jesus. In Luke 1:32 the angel told Mary that Jesus will be called "*Son of the Most High God.*" Demons are fallen angels who rebelled with Satan against God. They know who God is, and who Jesus Christ is (but note the disciples had just asked Jesus "*who are You?*")

**DANGEROUS MAN** - The demons spoke through the man, and though they torment people they were afraid of being tormented themselves. They have no power over Jesus, but they can oppress human beings who through sin have allowed or opened themselves to demonic activity.

Matthew 8 mentions two men. One could be his guard. Luke and Mark focus on the most violent. Mark 5 says he wrenched the chains, breaking shackles into pieces. No one had strength to subdue him. Luke 8:29 says the man was under guard, and bound with chains and shackles from which he could break free, and be driven by the demon into the desert.

**DISTRAUGHT MAN** - Luke says Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Matthew says the reply through the lips of the man were the spirits asking, "*have you come to torment us before the time?*" The New Testament word *chronos* means moment-by-moment passage of time, while the word *kairos* means a specific instance of time of great importance.

"The demonic world knows that at some future point of time of judgment, that God will subject them to relentless torment for their unmitigated evil," says RC Sproul. In verses 30-31, Jesus asked his name, and the reply was "Legion" for many demons had entered this man. Luke says they begged Jesus not to command them to "*depart into the abyss.*"

By answering, they acknowledge their submission to the Lord who commands them. The abyss is the "bottomless pit" mentioned in Revelation 9 and 20, Jude 6, 2Peter 2:4, Matthew 25:41.

**DELIVERED MAN** - Luke says there was a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside there, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter the pigs. "*So He gave them permission. The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned,*" Luke records. What a powerful display of divine authority!

In verse 29 Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirits to come out of the man, so after their confrontation, with one word from Jesus the demons left the man. Matthew 8 says Jesus said "go" and they went, just as the word "*peace*" from Jesus' lips had calmed the stormy sea. Now one word from Jesus calmed the raging storm of the demonized man.

Jesus did not send the demons into the abyss, because it was not yet time for their judgment.

"What comfort it is that God is Lord of history, knowing the end from the beginning," says Sproul, "and that what He decrees will indeed come to pass, at times He has fixed. The world is filled with sorrows and pain, but we are not in despair because our destiny is in His sovereign hands." □