

**LESSON FIVE****JESUS HEALS THE MAN WITH DEMONS**

LUKE 8:26-39

- 1. Read and re-read the passage.** Who are the characters in this passage? Where does this miracle take place? Does the setting for this miracle have any impact on it? Take time to prayerfully study this challenging passage. What do you notice?
- 2. What else is going on?** Look back at the preceding miracle in which Jesus calmed the storm. What did we learn from this passage that Jesus has authority over? Jesus is continuing to demonstrate His authority in this passage as well.
- 3. What occurs in this passage that is a miracle?** What we see in this story is a man suffering from severe emotional affliction and physical bondage. What did Jesus see as the cause of this man's suffering?

**BIBLE DICTIONARY:**

**Gerasenes** – a Gentile region east of the Sea of Galilee called Decapolis

**Demons** – supernatural beings who are subservient to Satan—were once angels who rebelled against God and, like Satan, were cast out of heaven—now subservient to Satan

**Legion** – a Roman army division of 4,000-6,000 men

**Abyss** – the realm of the dead

- 4.** What do the demons believe to be true about Jesus? Compare this with Peter's response to Jesus in Matthew 16:13-17.

5. Notice that Jesus does not respond to the demons' request by sending them into the pigs, but rather He gives the demons permission to go into them. How do the following passages demonstrate God's reign over evil?
- a. Job 1:9-26
  
  - b. Mark 1:27
  
  - c. Luke 22:31-32
  
  - d. Revelation 20:1-2
6. As the herdsmen see what Jesus did for this poor man, they spread the word to the townspeople. Why do they respond in fear to all they see?
7. How can our fears overpower our faith in God? Or, even worse, keep us from coming to God in faith? Is there a fear you have today over which you need ask Jesus to help you rest in His power and give you peace?
8. This man cleansed of thousands of demons becomes the first Gentile missionary. What is the method of evangelism Jesus commands? Why is this so effective?

9. Read Colossians 2:8-15. How does the cross of Jesus Christ ultimately triumph over evil?

### OWNING THE PASSAGE:

How do you see evil at work in our world and in your life? What have you learned from this passage that helps you to stand up to evil and to be at peace when you see it? If you were asked to tell others what Jesus has done for you to fight evil in your life, what would you say?

### EXPLORE MORE:

A. From beginning to end, the Bible is the story of our missional God coming after His broken people again and again to bring healing and renewal, restoring all of creation to His original intention for it. If you know the end of the Bible's story, you know that it does not end with humanity sitting on clouds playing harps but in a new creation that has been cosmically healed and rid of all evil. It ends with human beings restored to a place of complete fruitfulness and flourishing. That new condition begins the moment a person becomes a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ and is called to participate in the mission of God here on earth. What are some of the ways and places God has called you to engage in mission right where you live?

**B.** What seems to be the pervasive characteristic of the inhabitants of this story, and what are some ways you might be an agent of healing where that is prevalent in your own community?