

The Touch of Jesus

“Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them.” (Luke 4:40)

Lessons from miracles Jesus did, as they are recorded in the Book of Luke.

LESSON 7: Casting Out Devils

“Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”

(Luke 8:35)

As you listen to the teacher, fill in the blanks!

1. Jesus told His disciples to take the boat to the _____ of the lake.
2. When the storm came Jesus was _____.
3. The disciples in the boat lacked _____.

Right after the story of the stilling of the storm, the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell the story of the devil-possessed man in Gadara. The account is given in Luke 8:26-39, as well as in Matthew 8 and Mark 5. Gadara was a town to the southeast of the Sea of Galilee, several miles from the shore that was opposite the city of Capernaum. *“The country of the Gadarenes”* was the place on *“the other side of the lake”* to which Jesus and His disciples were going when the Lord calmed the storm. As they *“arrived”* they were *“met”* by a *“man which had devils long time”* (vs. 26-27). In the Bible, and especially in the accounts of our Lord’s earthly ministry, we are told again and again about devil possession. Find it in Luke 4:33-36, 8:1-3, 9:37-42, and 11:14-26. The Word of God teaches that there are such things as devils or evil spirits, and that Satan is their prince (Luke 11:14-22). We know from Luke 10:18 that Satan, an angelic being that rebelled against God, was cast out of Heaven, and Revelation 12 tells us that a third of the angels went with him (vs. 3-9). Some of those fallen angels are now in Hell, chained up until the day of judgment (See II Peter 2:4 and Jude 6). Many of them, however, are active on the earth, working for the devil to oppose God’s plan. These are called *“devils”* (Luke 8:2), *“an unclean devil”* (Luke 4:33), or *“the unclean spirit”* (Luke 8:29). Devils can tempt us, can deceive us, and can even possess the bodies of unsaved people! See that saved people, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, cannot be indwelt by an unclean spirit by examining carefully I John 4:1-6.

“The Unclean Spirit”

Now this man had been devil-possessed for a *“long time”* (vs. 26-27), and he displayed

the obvious symptoms of his condition. He was perverted in his desires and deeds. He “wore no clothes” and “abode . . . in the tombs.” He went naked and lived in a graveyard. *Perversity* is always a sign that the devil and his angels are involved in a situation. He was uncontrollable. See this in v. 29. The man could not be restrained. He was fierce and dangerous. *Unrestraint* is another sign of the devil’s work. We know by reading the whole story that the poor fellow had “many devils,” but verse 29 says he had an “unclean spirit.” In other words, the combined influence of a legion of devils gave the man an overall spirit that was “unclean”: perverse and unrestrained. Sadly, we see this very spirit in many folks today. It could be said truly that the spirit of our times is an unclean spirit. An appetite for the repulsive and ugly is the perversity created by evil forces. A rebellion that is unreasonable and violent is the wild spirit created by evil spirits. Let’s recognize Satan’s work when we see it!

“The Deep”

The devils begged Jesus not to “command them to go out into the deep” (vs. 30-31). The Greek word for “the deep” in this passage is the same one translated “the bottomless pit” in Revelation 9 and 20. It is the Hell that now is, where some devils are chained until judgment. Notice that if He commanded them, they had to obey. Remember that Jesus has all authority. The devils know this. Notice that they don’t want to go to Hell. They will all go there eventually, but Satan and his cohorts here on earth have not been sent there yet. We have to watch out for them!

“The Devils Were Departed”

See in verses 32 through 36 how the devil-possessed man was delivered! But look at verse 28 again first. In this verse, we see the man falling down before Jesus in an attitude of worship, but saying scornful things to him as the mouthpiece of devils! He was so controlled by these evil powers that he could not speak for himself. They controlled him! Yet he bowed before the Lord Jesus, and this was the key to his liberation. James 4:7 says,

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

When a soul submits to God, the devil loses control over him. Read James 4:7 again. The man submitted himself to Christ, and he was free. All he had to do now was “resist” the devil! See the results in verse 35. He is “sitting at the feet of Jesus,” no longer uncontrollable, and he is “clothed and in his right mind,” no longer perverse.

“Great Things”

The rest of the story is especially interesting. Verses 37 through 39 tell us that Jesus was asked to leave the country. As he got ready to go, the formerly possessed man begged to go with him. But Jesus told him to go back and start telling people the “great things” God had done for him. Surely this scene illustrates our situation. When we were saved and delivered from the devil, we began desiring to go up to be with the Lord in Heaven. This world is not our home any more! But He bids us stay down here and tell others what He had done for us. Look up Luke 24:45-48. That’s why we have been left behind. Verse 39 tells us what to do and encourages us to do it.