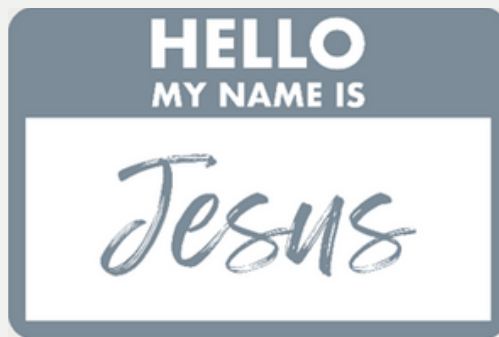


“The Defeat of Evil”

Luke 8:26-39



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## *The Gospel of Luke: Meeting Our Savior*

### **Warm Up Question:**

What were your Trick or Treat traditions as a child? How can this spooky celebration be used to get to know our neighbors?

**READ: Luke 8:26-39**

### **I. THE REALITY AND RUIN OF EVIL**

- Read Matthew 4:24, 1 Timothy 3:6, Ephesians 4:26-27, and Luke 22:31. How do these verses describe the complexity and nuance of brokenness in our world? How does this shape your understanding of evil?
- Read Mark 5:3-4. When have you felt evil sneaking up on you gradually?
- Share an example of something that slowly consumed you until you became its slave.

### **II. THE REDEMPTIVE VICTORY OVER EVIL**

- Read Colossians 2:13-15. In your sinfulness, how are you like the man possessed by demons?
- What did Jesus accomplish for you on the cross according to these verses?
- Read Matthew 8:29 and Revelation 20:10. What comfort do you receive from knowing how this story ends? How should this knowledge affect our fear of evil?

### **III. THE RESPONSE TO VICTORY OVER EVIL**

- Why do you think the pig owners responded with anger? When has God challenged your loyalties to your possessions?
- Read Luke 8:35, 37. How has Jesus removed your source of your self-justification like he did for the townspeople? Discuss why this statement from the sermon makes us afraid: “Evil is not outside you; it is inside you.”
- Read Luke 8:38-39 and Mark 5:18-20. How did the man freed from the demons respond? What does Jesus tell him to do?
- Discuss the difference between, “Go and tell what evil you did,” and “Go and tell what God has done.” How does this affect your ability to rehearse, repeat, and retell your own story of mercy received?
- Think of a time when God (or someone close to you) confronted you about evil in your own heart. How are you prone to respond: being angry, being afraid, or being grateful?

**What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?**

“For the first time I examined myself with a seriously practical purpose. And there I found what appalled me; a zoo of lusts, a bedlam of ambitions, a nursery of fears, a harem of fondled hatreds. My name was legion.”  
— C.S. Lewis

### **Questions for Prayer Time:**

- Pray that God would reveal evil lurking in your heart.
- Pray that you will notice and obey warning signs about evil that is gradually creeping up on you.
- Praise God that our evil hearts are forgiven and cleansed by his mercy and grace!
- Pray for those bound by evil to find freedom in Christ.

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### Scripture Passages Used:

**Luke 8:26** They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. **27** When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" **29** For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

**30** Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. **31** And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

**32** A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. **33** When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

**34** When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, **35** and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. **36** Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. **37** Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

**38** The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, **39** "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

**Matthew 4:24** News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

**1 Timothy 3:6** He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil.

**Ephesians 4:26** "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, **27** and do not give the devil a foothold.

**Luke 22:31** "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat."

**Mark 5:3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. **4** For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.

**Colossians 2:13** When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14** having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. **15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

**Matthew 8:29** "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

**Revelation 20:10** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Mark 5:18** As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. **19** Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." **20** So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

**For More Study of the Passage**  
**Luke 8:26-39**

**Observation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Interpretation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Application:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer:** \_\_\_\_\_