

The Gospel According to Luke

DEMONIAC HEALED

PART 8

Calming the Soul

READ LUKE 8: 34-39

INTRODUCTION

In the previous passage of chapter 8 we saw Jesus commanding the waves to be calm. In this section, we see that He is capable of calming the spirit of a man as well. This man was possessed by a demon named "Legion". The demon recognizes Jesus and there is an entire interaction where Jesus commands the demon to get out of the man and sends them into a herd of pigs nearby that then take a dive off of a cliff and perish. The story is amazing and is worth reading through to get the full context. (Read vs. 26-33)

The interaction after the demons were exercised is an interesting one to say the least. The people who were in the fields and knew this man and his issues were amazed to see him be healed and immediately they ran to town to tell people what had happened. There was a surprising outcome that they found when returning. The man was not only calm and orderly but, he was sitting at Jesus' feet and taking in teaching. Jesus has a unique way of taking us from the brink of destruction and commanding calm in our souls. This man was going out of his mind. He was hurting himself and others and was making a name for himself as a nuisance in the community. Now, because of Jesus, he was in his right mind. He was healed and calm.

The reaction of the people in the community cannot be lost. They ask Jesus to leave. This seems shocking because He was performing miracles and helping this man get back to a right mind. The world will commonly reject Jesus. Whether it is miracles or not, they do not want His holiness around them. It is uncomfortable and can be very intimidating. The one who experienced Christ on the other hand, desired more of Jesus. He wanted to be with Him and that is not a bad thing. We should desire to be with the One who has saved us. It should be a natural response.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think this interaction with a possessed man is important? What can we take away from the interaction of Jesus with this man?
2. How does Jesus provide calm in every storm? How do we experience His calming presence? In what ways can we be better about experiencing the calming rest of Jesus?
3. Read vs. 26-33. What stands out in this story as significant? Have you ever experienced anything like this? Do people in today's modern world interact with demons?
4. Have you ever been in a place where Jesus had to heal you? How did it feel when He relieved you? What did you learn through that experience?
5. Why is it so important for us to cling to Christ? Why didn't Jesus allow this man to come along with Him? What can we learn about the heart of Christ through this whole interaction?

WRAP UP

Demoniacs don't roll up commonly in our world today. At least not in the Western world. It is important that we recognize that the spiritual realm still exists and that there is a war going on for our allegiance. We are to cling to Christ and His Word so that we can know Him, stay close to Him, and be guided by Him. This way, we will be prepared for any eventuality and we will not be overwhelmed by anything.