

Lesson 19: The Gadarene Demoniac (People, Pigs & Profit)

Matthew 8:28-34 (Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39); Isaiah 61:1-3

I. REGARDING DEMON POSSESSION (Two errors: deny/ignore existence or obsess on it)

A. Satan Is Real.

- 1. His forces are active.** Battle for human souls and for rulership of this planet
- 2. His agents are personal.** Spoke/answered, had a name

B. Satan Opposes Everything That Is of God.

- 1. Satan hates humans.**
 - a. He hates the image of God.** Humans bear God's image.
 - b. He knows his authority was usurped from Adam.** He wants no competition
- 2. Satan opposes life.** (Jn 1:4 & 10:10 & 14:6; 1 Jn 5:12)
 - a. He wills death.** Man lived among the *tombs*; demons drove *pigs* to *drown*
 - b. He enjoys anything that inhibits life.** Can't create; can only *pervert & destroy*
- 3. Satan despises freedom.** (Isa 42:7 & 61:1; 2 Cor 3:17)
 - a. Satan wants to *control* people; God wants to teach *self-control*.**
 - b. Satan wants to *erase personalities*; God delights in individuals.**
- 4. Satan works against peace.**
 - a. He wills insanity.** (2 Tim 2:20) *Holy Spirit produces clarity and a sound mind.*
 - b. He wills violence.** (Gal 5:23) *Holy Spirit produces gentleness.*
 - c. He wills torment.** (Gal 5:22; Rom 8:6) *external and internal; Holy Spirit brings peace*

C. Satan's power is real.

- 1. It extracts a terrible price.** Jesus' power is a *gift*—the Holy Spirit.
- 2. It is limited: by the authority of Jesus and the constraints of time.** (29)

II. **RECOGNIZING THE SON OF GOD** (Mat 4:3, 6; 1 Jn 3:8)

A. **Remembering Christ's Temptation** (Mat 4:3,6) *"If you are the Son of God..."*

B. **Understanding Christ's Sonship**—*Israel's Divine Messiah King*

1. **Israel's King** (2 Sam 7:12-16; Ps 2:7)—*the one who ruled Israel as God's anointed*
2. **Israel's Representative** (Ex 4:22; Hos 11:1-2; Mat 2:15)—*reenacts Israel's history to pass the test of faithfulness that the nation failed*
3. **Jesus' Divinity** (3:17; Jn 5:15-18)—*His unique relationship with God the Father*

C. **Fearing Christ's Authority** (Phil 2:9-11; Mat 16:18)

1. Exorcism is a **sign** of God's Kingdom coming.
 - a. Individual Human Souls
 - b. Demonic Strongholds (thought, imagination, institutions, culture)
 - c. The Nations
2. The Authority of Christ brings **Shalom**.

III. **REJECTING THE DELIVERER** (Acts 16:16-24; 1 Jn 3:8)

A. **Heaven's Values**—*at odds with the goals and values of this world*

If you have bought into the World, you will be threatened by Jesus.

B. **Divine Disruption**—*Jesus will disrupt the status quo.*

If you have placed your confidence in Satan's strongholds, you will be threatened by Jesus.

C. **The Coming Kingdom**—*Jesus will return judge and to completely vanquish Satan.*

Exorcism is a sign of Christ's authority and the reality of His Kingdom, which is advancing now and will be consummated when He returns.

Come, Lord Jesus!