

The Gospel of Luke

A God Who Is In Control (Part 2)

Luke 8:26-39*

1. The Deranged Demoniac (vs.26-27, 29b-30)

This man, originally from the nearby town, had been separated from normal society for quite some time because of his behavior. He was a known and uncontrollable public nuisance (cf. Matt 8:28; Mark 5:3-5).

2. Jesus Interacts with the Demons

A. The Demons Recognize Jesus' Identity (v.28)

Upon encountering Jesus, they addressed Him correctly as the Son of God and they bowed before Him (cf. Mark 5:6; see also Mark 1:23-24; Luke 4:41).

B. The Demons Recognize and Respond to Jesus' Authority (v.28b-33)

Demons are powerful and are not to be regarded casually (Mark 9:22; Acts 19:15-16). They are only able to do what God has allowed for them to do (see Job 1:6, 11-12; 2:1-6). These demons knew that they would have no choice but to obey whatever Jesus commanded of them, and so they repeatedly plead for Jesus not to torment them.

3. The Response of the People of the Region

A. The Herdsmen React to Jesus' Actions (v.34)

All that these men knew was that their entire herd of pigs had gone mad and drowned themselves. They fled, not primarily to tell of what had happened, but in order to escape from danger.

B. The People of the Region Respond to Jesus' Actions (vs.35-37)

They saw how this man had been changed and were in great fear. Instead of glorifying God, they wanted nothing to do with Jesus (cf. John 4:39-42).

4. The Response of the Delivered Man

A. The Delivered Man Responds to Jesus' Actions (vs.35b, 38)

This man had gone from being naked, wild, and uncontrollable to being clothed, calm, and in his right mind. He had undergone a radical conversion that was evident to everyone.

B. The Delivered Man Responds to Jesus' Command (v.39)

Having been delivered, this man desires to become one of Jesus' disciples. But the Lord instructs him to bear witness to his neighbors of the great things that God has done for him.

*Parallel Gospel accounts are found in Matt 8:28-34 & Mark 5:1-20.