



DEMONIAC “The Unthinkable” *Luke 8:26-39* March 30, 2014

The Sad Situation - Ruined

- ✓ Unclothed
- ✓ Homeless
- ✓ Uncontainable & Uncontrollable

Satan & The Demons – Rebellious & Repulsive

- ✓ They Had Great Power, Intelligence, and Strength.
- ✓ They Want to Kill, Steal and Destroy
- ✓ They Recognized Jesus
- ✓ They Believed in Jesus
- ✓ They Were Afraid of Jesus
- ✓ They Had a Request for Jesus

The Savior - Restoration

- ✓ Satan Came to Destroy and Jesus Came to Deliver
- ✓ He Approaches Him in Love and Care
- ✓ He Spoke To the Demons and Permitted Them to Speak
- ✓ He Threw Them Out & Allows Them To Go Into the Pigs

Society’s Response – Rejection

- ✓ They Could Not Do Anything With Him
- ✓ They Were Afraid of Jesus
- ✓ They Missed the Miracle & More Jesus Could Do.
- ✓ They Were More Concerned With Money Than Man.
- ✓ They Asked Jesus to Leave

The Soul – Revolution (His 180° Moment)

- ✓ He Was Sitting at the Feet of Jesus

- ✓ He Was Fully Clothed
- ✓ He Was in His Right Mind
- ✓ He Wanted to Go With Jesus
- ✓ He Obeyed Jesus: He Went Home & Shared His Story

OUR 180° MOMENT

1. Do you realize today that without Christ you are lost? That only Jesus can make a person whole and complete? It is time to take the 180o turn today! Remember, it is as easy as ABC – Draw near to Jesus and He will draw near to you! **Admit** you are sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son who came to die for you, **Confess** Him as Savior and Lord, and **Commit** your life to Him!
2. Are you willing to go public with your faith? Have you trusted Christ but never made that public? Today is the day for you step across the line and profess your faith and be baptized as Christ was!
3. Do you have a Church Home? A place where you belong and you are connected? Is Christ calling you to join this Church Family? If so, there is no better time than today. Come and help us in the journey to reach our “home” and even to the ends of the earth!
4. Who is that you need to go “home” and tell your story to this week? Who will you invite to join you Easter Sunday as your guest? Write these names below and commit to pray for them every day and invite them to come. Also pray for an opportunity to share your story with them of how Jesus changed your life and made you whole!

NAME

NAME

5. May we be like the demoniac man and our testimony be that we were never the same again once we met Jesus! As a result may we be obedient to go wherever He calls us to go and be willing to do whatever He call us to do! Where is it and What is it He is asking you to do? Write it down and start doing it this week...

U-TURN: 180° THE TURNED AROUND LIFE

DEMONIAC

“The Unthinkable”

Luke 8:26-39

March 30, 2014 AM Service

This morning as we continue our journey through the book of Luke, We take a look at something amazing as we have seen how Jesus has dealt with Disease and Death and now we will see him deal with the **Demon Possessed or Demoniac**. We jump backwards in our study of the book of Luke and see where Jesus commissioned the first missionary before He ever commissioned the apostles and other believers in the book of Acts, and is the most unthinkable person, the most unlikely that Jesus uses! That should be great news for all of us, because we are all nobodies. Now there are some of us who have enough pride that perhaps think that God should use or could use us, but when it comes down to it, God wants to use all of us in His kingdom and in His service.

The Sad Situation - Ruined

- ✓ **Unclothed**
- ✓ **Homeless**
- ✓ **Uncontainable & Uncontrollable** – He was wild, violent –caused harm to himself and a threat to harm others

Satan & The Demons – Rebellious & Repulsive *John 8:44-45*

When God moves, remember that Satan always takes notice.

- ✓ **They had great power, intelligence, and strength.**
We must never underestimate the destructive power of the Satan.
- ✓ **They want to kill, steal and destroy** – exactly what had happened to this man’s life He had lost his home, his family, self-dignity, self-control, joy, and peace and purpose for living.
- ✓ **They recognized Jesus** It was clear to them who He was, they spoke to Jesus before He even spoke to them
- ✓ **They believed in Jesus** – key point here, they believe in Him, lots of people here in America believe in Him, and James says you do well for even the demons believe and shudder

- ✓ **They were afraid of Jesus** They begged for mercy! Where is our reverential fear of God?
- ✓ **They had a request for Jesus because they believed in their judgment by Jesus & that they were doomed** pleaded not to send them to the abyss, to eternal judgment and damnation which they know is coming. Demon possession – they can only inhabit the life of an unbeliever, not a believer. However, demons can attack believer and can even use them for harm to the kingdom.

Some quick words here about this topic

Much of the teaching about demons makes too much of too little scriptural evidence. We don't know a lot about them but we know they are real, they traffic in fear and deception and are relentlessly opposed to everything God desires. But we have no reason to fear.

Much of this teaching pays too much attention to the wrong spiritual power. Jesus never went looking for demonic activity and neither should we. Shouldn't spend time wondering if there is a demon behind every bush. Rather than obsess about that, we should as Hebrews 12 reminds us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and Perfector of our faith

Expect struggles with the forces of darkness

Stand firm by actively living out your faith

Resist the forces of darkness by the power of the Holy Spirit

Never forget that believers in Jesus Christ are fighting on the winning side in the war between good and evil.

The Savior – Restoration [See John 10:10](#)

- ✓ **Satan came to destroy and Jesus came to deliver**
It is encouraging to note that the demons did not know what Jesus planned to do. This suggests that Satan can know God's plans only if God reveals them. In fact, there is no evidence in Scripture that Satan can read the mind of a believer, let alone the mind of God.
- ✓ **He approaches him in love and care** – even going through a storm to get to them. Jesus was always willing to approach anyone, especially those considered by society as unapproachable.
- ✓ **He spoke to them and permitted them to speak**
- ✓ **He throws the demons out of the man and allows them to go into the pigs.** Why allow them to enter the pigs? It was a clear and visible

demonstration of His power and authority and that these demons had indeed once been in this man and were no longer in these pigs. By the way pigs & cemeteries were both unclean for Jews and so we see the symbolism for the disciples watching – unclean spirits entered unclean animals and plunged involuntarily into the abyss of the sea. Jesus had condemned evil to drown in its own chaos.

Society's Response – Rejection

- ✓ **They could not do anything with him**, isolated him, tried to restrain him, but it was all hopeless. A lost man will act like a lost man and there is little one can do about, even through enough laws, that will not change him either.
- ✓ **They were afraid of Jesus** really the same kind of fear the demons had, not the kind of reverential fear that we are called as believers to have. What were they possibly afraid of in Jesus? Of his authority and power that He clearly possessed. It speaks of a serious state of the soul when people are more afraid of goodness than wickedness. **“What a sad comment on man's fallen and unregenerate state it is, that man should feel more at home with demons, than with the Christ who has power to cast out the demons.”** David Gooding
- ✓ **They missed the miracle and the others that He could have done.** Think about all the other people who could have been healed, set free, lives forever changed? Leads to a great question, where have we stopped God from going in our own lives? Where He could do even more if we would let Him inside?
- ✓ **They were more concerned with the death of animals than of the fact the man's life had been changed, his life had been spared.** Don't miss that the same parallel is true today, they are more people hugging trees and animals and we kill the unborn by the millions!
- ✓ **They asked Jesus to leave? Why?** They were afraid of change, they were afraid of losing what they had, afraid of having to deal with Jesus and facing a holy God and have to do something about it. Afraid perhaps of having their routine of life disturbed –we've have everything like we like it and you've come and messed it up! **Notice, he once again does not force His way in, but complies with their request** and He departs from the region never to return again. When God is at work,

you can rest assured that Satan is working overtime to prevent it from happening. What would cause people to prefer pigs and lunatics over the presence of God? Or better yet...

What could cause an alcoholic to prefer drunken misery over sobriety?

What could cause a church to prefer slumber over revival?

What would cause a nation to prefer slavery over freedom?

What would cause people to prefer yesterday's traditions over today's living God?

The answer? Fear of change. Change is hard work. It's easier to follow the same old path than to move out into uncharted territory.

So the people dismiss Jesus. And since Jesus never goes where is isn't invited, he steps back into the boat.

The Soul – Revolution (Transformation)

The proof? He had been radically changed!

One minute he is insane, the next in Christ. Instead of being driven by the demon, he was sitting; instead of being without clothes, he was dressed; instead of being among the tombs, he was at the feet of Jesus; instead of being chained hand and foot, he was free and his right mind.

✓ **He was sitting at the feet of Jesus**

Sitting at the feet of Jesus – he under authority, and is acting right.

He is no longer free to do His own thing. When he was doing his own thing he was sick, out of his mind, and living like an animal.

He is not submitted to the authority of Christ in which He now finds himself truly free. When we submit to the Lordship of Christ it is only then that we are truly free and that we can truly begin to live.

✓ **He was fully clothed** He was clothed. He was no longer shameless (naked). He now understands again what is right and proper and moral

✓ **He was in his Right Mind**

Right thinking leads to right living.

He was sane, everything was changed. He sees the world differently.

He had been saved, made whole and complete!

✓ **He wanted to go with Jesus** His natural and automatic response because he had been transformed is I want to go with Jesus, and yet Jesus tells him no, I want you go back to your family and friends and you tell them what I have done for you and let them see the change in

you. *Jesus did not reject his request, but refocused his request.* **The man unable to live at home is now directed to return home!** Much more effective than going with Jesus, and seeing people that he did not know that He was once demon possessed, but now changed, but those in his family and his city would see and know the immediate change in his life. Not only that it would have been far easier compared to going back home and living out this changed life! He tells him not go get trained or learn the Roman Road, no – just go and tell you story – not someone else’s just yours and what I have done for you! Nothing more powerful than the evidence of a changed life!

✓ **He obeyed Jesus and went home to share the good news**

He was obedient to Jesus without compromise or question, He went and did just as Jesus told him to do. Why? So Jesus would save him or love him or be happy with him? No, he did it out of His love for the Savior because of what He had done for Him and his passion to go and tell others what Jesus had done for him He could for them!! He couldn’t help but tell others and no doubt that surely had to listen – they couldn’t help it, had to see if for themselves.

Make this other note – Jesus sends a missionary to those who reject Him – we wouldn’t, maybe a plague, but Jesus sends them a changed life because they were trapped in their lives too but just in a different way.

The question comes, this man was radically changed, everything about him was different, everyone could see it. There was no doubt, & then he went & lived it & told others what Jesus had done for him. It leads us to 2 very simple, yet profound and challenging questions. Is your life different since you met Christ? Can you truly say I will never be the same again like the Demoniac did?

Along the same lines, if we line you up next to a non-believer is your life different than theirs? How you spend your time, talents & treasure. When is the last time that you shared the truth of the gospel with a lost person, or even simpler, tried to make a connection with someone who was lost, or even simpler than that, just invited someone to church? Some churches would beg to have people to visit and we have so many that God has sent our way. How many more though will He send if we do not reach the ones that He has already sent?

You see the truth is so very clear folks, when we meet Jesus, there should be a 180 turn in our lives that everyone can see, the world takes notice, and not only can they see it but they then hear it from our hearts as we speak the loving words of truth!

ILLUS: “I Will Never Be the Same Again” He was insane without Christ and now He was in Christ and forever changed, never the same again.