

THE MEANEST MAN THAT EVER LIVED // Luke 8:26-39

From the series, The Gospel of Luke

This week, we continued our discussion of Luke by addressing what happened after Jesus calmed the storm. As their boat arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, Jesus and the disciples were met by the demon possessed man. Just like with the storm on the lake, the dominant theme of this passage: Jesus is in control. Jesus is showing the disciples that He has supernatural control over everything.

1. The Demon and his Destruction (vs. 26-29)

- a. The devil does not want to play games with us – he wants to destroy us, as we see with the demonic man. Only Jesus has the power to play games with the devil.
- b. Note: the man did not recognize Jesus, but the demons knew Him instantly.
- c. Jesus has the power to break the chains that we cannot break. Jesus can rule what we cannot.

2. The Divine and the Deliverance (vs. 30-33)

Jesus is merciful on the man and even on the demons. Nothing happens without divine permission.

3. The Depraved and their Demand (vs. 34-37)

The people who see the former demoniac are more afraid of holiness than evil and demon possession. They asked Jesus to leave because He disrupted their lives.

4. The Disciple and the Deployment (vs. 38-39)

As we see with the former demoniac, anyone who receives the ministry of Jesus wants to then be a part of that ministry.

Just like He demonstrated His control over the storm on the lake, Jesus showed that He is also in control of the demons. We are now faced with the question: what does it look like for Jesus to be in control of our lives?

Evidence that Jesus is in control of our lives:

1. We find ourselves on the other side of life – going where others do not want to go.
2. We begin to gain victory over sin – fighting from a posture of victory.
3. We look more like Jesus every day – we learn to sit before the Savior.
4. We pursue lost people in our communities – God can and will use us right where we are.

If God can turn a demon-possessed man into a missionary, surely He can do something in our lives if we allow Him to be in control.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does/would it look like for Jesus to be in control of your life?
2. The former demoniac became a missionary in his community by sharing his testimony. What is something God has done in your life that might help someone else see God more clearly?
3. How might you pursue the lost people in your community?