

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



*glimpses
of glory*

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

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Jesus' Authority Over Demons and What it Means for us Today Luke 8:26-39

Jesus exercises his authority over the spiritual realm. (vv. 26-33)

1. Demonic forces seek to destroy lives.

Luke 8:26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. *27* When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.

2. The demons immediately recognize Jesus and his authority.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." *29* For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)

3. The demons understand and greatly fear their impending judgment.

Luke 8:30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. *31* And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. *32* Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. *33* Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

Despite the proof of Jesus' authority, responses varied. (vv. 34-39)

Luke 8:34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. *35* Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. *36* And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. *37* Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. *38* The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, *39* "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

What does this authority of Jesus over Satan/demons mean for us today?

1. We REMEMBER that Jesus has absolute authority over all things, including demonic activity.
Col. 2:15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
2. We RECOGNIZE areas in our own lives prone to demonic attack.
Eph. 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

In the western world Satan's primary method of attack is on the mental arenas of our life. Discouragement, fear, depression, anxiety, questioning God's reliability, questioning our own forgiveness, bitterness, resentment, etc. are all ways the enemy seeks to manipulate us and destroy the quality of our lives.

3. We RESPOND to the attack by standing firm, according to the truth and reliability of scripture.
1 Pet. 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, **7** casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. **8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
4. We REJOICE knowing that one day all attacks will come to an end. (Revelation 20-22)

Reflection/Discussion

1. Recall or reread how Jesus responded to Satan's attack against him (Luke 4:1-13). How was Jesus victorious over temptation? How did Satan respond to Jesus' resistance?
2. Identify an area of your life ripe for demonic attack. The quality of your life in Christ depends on holding fast to the truths of God's word. How do the passages above encourage and equip you to respond when under attack?
3. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. God has given you what you need to stand firm against the enemy's schemes. Consider memorizing this section of scripture.

SONGS

"GOD SO LOVED"

"THIS IS OUR GOD"

"10,000 REASONS (BLESS THE LORD)"

"KING OF KINGS"

Crossing Music Pastor: Dan Gillette (dan@vbc.online)

Behold Podcast: vbc.online/behold

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 20,895.40

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,985.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 846,888.00

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$ 961,610.00

ALTAMONT CAMPUS EXPANSION FUND:

[Last Entry - 06/21] \$ 80,339.78

VBC FAMILY ROSTER



Communication & Giving: Envelopes for financial gifts, prayer requests, & communication to our church leadership are in the seatback pockets. Please deposit the envelopes in the offering boxes by the exit doors. Thank you!