

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 62

TITLE: **JESUS' POWER OVER DEMONS**

TEXT: LUKE 8:26-39

INTRODUCTION: (1) THE WORD DEMON IS USED
FREQUENTLY IN OUR VERNACULAR AND IN
SEVERAL WAYS.

* FOR EXAMPLE, YOU POSSIBLY HAVE HEARD A
CHILD THAT MISBEHAVES AS THE NORM, CALLED
A LITTLE WHAT? DEMON, TALKING ABOUT HOW
BAD THEIR BEHAVIOR IS.

** FOR YEARS, WAKE FOREST COLLEGE HAD AS
THEIR LOGO, THEIR IDENTIFICATION MASCOT AS,
THE DEMON DEACON.

*** AT **KNOTT'S BERRY FARM AMUSEMENT** PARK
IN CALIFORNIA, THEY HAVE A RIDE CALLED,
"THE DEMON DROP".

*** BEYOND THAT THERE SEEMS TO BE A PREOCCUPATION, NO DOUBT THROUGH SATANIC AND OCCULT INFLUENCE WITH DEMONS ON T.V. AND AT THE MOVIES.

**** THROUGH THE YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN MOVIES LIKE THE EXORCIST, THE OMEN AND THE GREMLINS AND MANY MORE, THAT HAVE DEMONIC THEMES (WHICH BY THE WAY I HAVE NEVER SEEN, NOR WOULD I RECOMMEND FOR ANYONE TO WATCH MOVIES LIKE THAT FOR THEY OPEN YOU UP TO THE REALM OF SATAN AND EVIL INFLUENCES).

(2) BUT MY POINT IS MORE AND MORE WE HEAR ABOUT DEMONS FROM A SECULAR SLANT, FROM A SECULAR POINT OF VIEW, THERE SEEMS TO BE MORE OF A PREOCCUPATION WITH DEMONS IN OUR CULTURE.

* WELL, THE BIBLE HAS A LOT TO SAY ABOUT DEMONS, INCLUDING OUR TEXT TODAY. AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE N.T. DEMONS ENGAGE IN SEVERAL INJURIOUS ACTIVITIES.

** NO. 1 THEY ARE INVOLVED IN MANY PHYSICAL AND MENTAL AFFLICTIONS. PHYSICALLY WITH DUMBNESS IN MATTHEW 9:32&33, WITH BLINDNESS IN MATTHEW 12:22, IN DEFORMITY IN LUKE 13:11-17 AND SEIZURES IN MATTHEW 17:15-18.

*** MENTALLY THEY HAVE A PART IN MESSING WITH THE MIND, SPECIFICALLY IN INSANITY IN LUKE 8:27-29, WITH SUICIDAL MANIA IN MARK 9:22, IN MASOCHISM IN MARK 5:5, AND MURDER IN REVELATION 9:14-20; 18:2 AND V. 24.

**** NOW BEYOND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL AFFLICTION, THEY HAVE A WORK OF SPIRITUAL AFFLICTION. THEY ARE THE AUTHORS OF IDOLATRY AND FALSE RELIGION UNDER SATAN.

(3) THEY ARE THE SOURCE OF FALSE DOCTRINE, I TIMOTHY 4:1&2

* BUT ALSO, WHERE PEOPLE OFTEN WORSHIP IDOLS THEY ARE ACTUALLY WORSHIPPING DEMONS ACCORDING TO I CORINTHIANS **10:20&21, WHERE IT SAYS: "NO; BUT I SAY** THAT THE THINGS WHICH THE GENTILES SACRIFICE, THEY SACRIFICE TO DEMONS, AND NOT TO GOD; AND I DO NOT WANT YOU TO BECOME SHARERS IN DEMONS, YOU CANNOT DRINK THE CUP OF THE LORD AND THE CUP OF DEMONS; YOU CANNOT PARTAKE OF THE TABLE **OF THE LORD AND THE TABLE OF DEMONS."**

** AND THEN THE CHIEF OF DEMONS IS A CHARACTER CALLED BEELZEBUB OR BAAL-ZEBUB, WHICH RELATES HIM TO BAAL, A FALSE GOD IN THE O.T.

*** AND IN THE EYES OF JESUS, BEELZEBUB WAS IDENTICAL WITH SATAN. THUS DEMONS ARE **NOTHING MORE OR LESS THAN SATAN'S** PERSONAL EMISSARIES.

**** SO IN THE BIBLE DEMONS ARE NOT EXPLAINED AWAY AS FANTASIES OF A BYGONE AGE. THEY ARE REAL, AND THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE MOTIVATED BY NONE OTHER THAN SATAN.

(4) THEY ARE SPIRIT BEINGS, ANGELS WHO KEPT NOT THEIR FIRST ESTATE WHO FELL WITH **SATAN, ANGELS WHO WERE A PART OF SATAN'S** ORIGINAL REBELLION AND WHO SHARE IN HIS WORK TODAY. AND THEY ARE EVIL AND DO AN EVIL WORK AND ARE LIARS.

* NOW SATAN AND DEMONS ARE POWERFUL, BUT NOT ALL-POWERFUL, THEY ARE MIGHTY BUT NOT ALL-MIGHTY, AND JOHN REMINDS US IN I JOHN 4:4 (QUOTE IT).

** AND WE AS BELIEVERS NEED TO BE REMINDED OF THE POWER OF DEMONS, BUT NOT LIVE IN FEAR OF DEMONS, FOR OUR SAVIOR IS ALL POWERFUL.

*** AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY, JESUS SHOWS HIS POWER OVER DEMONS BY CASTING OUT A MULTITUDE OF THEM OUT OF A MAN.

**** AND LAST SUNDAY IN LUKE 8, WE SAW **JESUS' POWER OVER** CREATION AND IN OUR TEXT TODAY **WE'LL SEE JESUS' POWER OVER** DEMONS, WHICH IS THE TITLE OF OUR MESSAGE.

(5) AND UNDER THAT TITLE, WE'LL LOOK AT 4 POINTS IN LUKE 8:26-39. NO. 1 THE POSSESSION BY DEMONS OF A MAN, VV. 26-28; NO. 2 THE POWER OF JESUS TO CAST OUT THOSE DEMONS, VV. 29-33; NO. 3 THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE TOWN WHERE THIS MIRACLE WAS PERFORMED, THEIR RESPONSE, VV. 34-37; AND NO. 4 THE PLAN OF JESUS FOR THIS MAN HE DELIVERED FROM DEMONS AND SIN, VV. 38&39.

* AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION, LOOK AT V. 26 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE** OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE POSSESSION.

I. THE POSSESSION, (READ V. 26)

A. NOW AFTER THE MIRACULOUS STILLING OF THE STORM ON THE SEA OF GALILEE IN LUKE 8:22-25 WHICH WE LOOKED AT LAST WEEK, JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES CONTINUE ACROSS THE SEA OF GALILEE TO THE OTHER SIDE.

* AND BY NOW IT WAS DAYLIGHT AND THE GROUP OF BOATS LANDED IN THE COUNTRY OF THE GERASENES.

** NOW MATTHEW IN HIS ACCOUNT OF THIS MIRACLE CALL THIS PLACE GADARENES IN MY TRANSLATION AND CRITICS OF SCRIPTURE USE THIS AS AMMO FOR THEIR SUPPOSITION THAT THERE ARE CONTRADICTIONS IN SCRIPTURE.

*** BUT THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION HERE FOR THE SMALL TOWN OF GERASA OR GERGESA (FROM WHICH COME GERASENES AND GERGESENES, RESPECTIVELY) WAS ON THE NORTHEAST SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, ABOUT 6 MILES ACROSS THE WATER FROM CAPERNAUM, AND THE STEEP CLIFFS NEARBY FIT THE GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING DESCRIBED HERE.

**** NOW THE TOWN OF GADARA (FROM WHICH COMES GADARENES) IS LOCATED FURTHER SOUTH AND IS INLAND; BUT THE GENERAL REGION, INCLUDING GERASA, WAS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE COUNTRY OF THE GADARENES, AS MATTHEW RECORDS IT.

1. MARK AND LUKE NOTE THE VILLAGE. MATTHEW NOTES THE WHOLE AREA - THE **REGION, THE COUNTRY, SO THERE'S NO CONTRADICTION. IT'S BASICALLY THE SAME PLACE.**

* WITH THAT SAID LOOK AT V. 27 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 27. NOW AS JESUS COMES INTO THIS REGION AS HE HAS CROSSED THE SEA OF GALILEE WITH HIS DISCIPLES, A MAN WHO WAS DEMON-POSSESSED COMES TO MEET HIM AS HE WAS COMING OUT OF THE TOMBS, **AND HE'S NAKED.**

* NOW A COUPLE OF THINGS AT THIS POINT. IN **MARK AND LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF THIS INCIDENT,** IN MARK 5:2 AND HERE IN LUKE 8:27, THEY MENTION ONLY ONE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN.

**** BUT IN MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT, HE MENTIONS** TWO DEMON POSSESSED MEN, IN MATTHEW 8:28. AND THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL MAN BY MATTHEW DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRADICTION, BUT AN ADDED FEATURE THAT MARK AND LUKE DO NOT MENTION.

*** MARK AND LUKE MENTION ONLY ONE MAN FOR ONLY ONE OF THE TWO WANTED TO FOLLOW JESUS, AND ONLY ONE WAS DELIVERED BY JESUS. SO MARK AND LUKE DO NOT STATE THAT ONLY ONE WAS PRESENT, THEIR FOCUS FOR THEIR PURPOSES OF WRITING CENTERED ON ONE OF THE TWO.

**** NOW THE MEN IN MARK AND LUKE WHO COMES TO JESUS IS POSSESSED WITH DEMONS, PLURAL. AND TO BE POSSESSED WITH DEMONS MEANS TO BE DEMONIZED, TO BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF A DEMONIC SPIRIT, TO BE UNDER THE POWER OF A DEMON, AND HERE MANY DEMONS.

2. AND DEMONIZATION MAY BE DEFINED AS A CONDITION IN WHICH ONE OR MORE DEMONS INHABIT AND GAIN CONTROL OVER A HUMAN BEING.

* NOW THIS DEMON POSSESSED MAN WAS NOT LIVING IN A HOUSE, BUT IN TOMBS. AND THE TOMBS WERE SEPULCHERS, GRAVES THAT WERE HEWN OUT OF ROCKS.

** AND IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS COMMON FOR CEMETERIES TO HAVE MANY TOMBS CARVED INTO THE HILLSIDE, MAKING CAVE-LIKE MAUSOLEUMS.

*** AND THERE WAS ENOUGH ROOM FOR A PERSON TO LIVE IN SUCH TOMBS, FOR TOMBS OF WEALTHY PEOPLE HAD MORE THAN ONE CHAMBER FOR LATER FAMILY MEMBERS TO BE BURIED, SO THERE WERE EMPTY CHAMBERS AVAILABLE FOR SHELTER.

**** NOW TOMBS WERE UNCLEAN PLACES FOR JEWS, FOR ONE OF THE WORST DEFILEMENTS OF ALL FOR A JEWISH PERSON WAS TO TOUCH A DEAD BODY. SO TOMBS WERE UNCLEAN PLACES AND REGARDED BY JEWS AS FIT ONLY FOR LEPERS AND THE DEMON-POSSESSED.

- AND PEOPLE WITH HOPELESS CONDITIONS, SUCH AS THIS MAN, COULD FIND SHELTER IN THE CAVES.

3. NOW LET ME GIVE YOU A FEW OTHER INTERESTING DETAILS ABOUT THIS DEMON-POSSESSED MAN LOOKING AT HIM FROM MATTHEW 8:28-34, MARK 5:1-20 AND OUR TEXT. IN MATTHEW 8:28 IT SAYS: **"THEY WERE SO EXCEEDINGLY VIOLENT THAT NO ONE COULD PASS BY THAT ROAD,"** SPEAKING OF BOTH MEN.

* AND THESE MEN WERE LIKE SAVAGES, DANGEROUS, FIERCE, SO VIOLENT THAT NO ONE DARE PASS BY THAT WAY. IN MARK 5 IT SAYS THAT PEOPLE TRIED TO BIND HIM, WITH CHAINS, BUT HE JUST BROKE THEM, HE HAD SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH.

** BEYOND THAT LUKE 8:27 OUR TEXT SAYS **THEY "WORE NO CLOTHES" WHICH SHOWS US THE SOURCE OF IMMODESTY, SATAN AND DEMONS. AND I'LL BE DIRECT HERE, BUT IF YOU WANT TO ACT LIKE A DEMON JUST TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF AND BE IMMODEST, YOU'LL PLEASE THE DEVIL.**

*** BEYOND THAT MARK ALSO SAYS HE WAS CRYING OUT AND CUTTING HIMSELF WITH STONES IN MARK 5:5.

**** AND OF COURSE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE CUTTING THEMSELVES, AND THOSE ACTIONS HAVE A DEFINITE SOURCE, AND OBVIOUSLY NOT FROM THE LORD.

***** NOW GET THE PICTURE HERE, THIS MAN WAS STARK NAKED, HACKING HIMSELF WITH STONES, CRYING OUT AND HAD INCREDIBLE STRENGTH, WHICH EXPLAINS WHY NO ONE WOULD GO DOWN THAT ROAD, BUT JESUS DID, FOR HE WAS THE SON OF GOD. LOOK AT V. 28 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 28. NOW THIS MAN CRIES OUT WHEN HE SEES JESUS FOR HE KNEW WHO HE WAS, HE CALLS JESUS **THE "SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD."**

* NOW THESE DEMONS KNOW WHO JESUS IS, AS SPIRITS THEY RECOGNIZED HIS SPIRIT, THEY KNEW THEY WERE **IN THE PRESENCE OF "THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD."**

1. SO THEY BELIEVED IN THE DEITY OF CHRIST.

* AND PLEASE GET THIS. SEEING JESUS IN THE FIRST PART OF V. 28, THE DEMON SPOKESMAN **CRIED OUT USING THE MAN'S VOICE IN SHEER PANIC**, AND THE MAN UNDER THE POSSESSION AND POWER OF THESE DEMONS, EXPRESSING THEIR FEARS, ABRUPTLY FELL BEFORE JESUS IN A POSTURE OF SUBMISSION, NOT WORSHIP.

** IT IS TO SAY, THESE DEMONS KNOW WHO JESUS IS, THEY UNDERSTAND HIS AUTHORITY AND POWER, AND BOW NOT IN RESPECT, OR ACCEPTANCE OR IN REPENTANCE, BUT IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THEIR FUTURE IS IN HIS HAND.

*** SO THEY BOW TO PLEAD, THEY BOW TO **CONCEDE, THEY DON'T BOW TO RECEIVE HIM AS THEIR LORD, THEY CAPITULATE, THEY DON'T WANT TO BE TORMENTED, SO THEY BARGAIN. THIS IS NOT HUMBLE REVERENCE, BUT CLEAR FEAR.**

**** FOR AFTER THE DEMON SPOKESPERSON **ACKNOWLEDGES JESUS' DEITY AND POWER, A FACT, THEY KNEW WHO JESUS WAS AS JUDGE BUT THEY ARE NOT REDEEMED OR SAVED.**

2. FOR THE ONLY SALVATION THEY WANTED WAS NOT TO BE TORMENTED BEFORE THE TIME, NOT TO BE DAMNED AT THAT POINT.

* FOR THE SPOKESPERSON USES THE VOICE OF **THE MAN THAT IS POSSESSED AND SAYS, "I BEG YOU, DON'T TORMENT ME."**

** **LITERALLY DON'T TORMENT ME BEFORE THE DESIGNATED TIME.**

*** AND BELOVED, THE DEMONS KNEW THEIR ULTIMATE FATE, ETERNAL PUNISHMENT IN THE LAKE OF FIRE, QUOTE MATTHEW 25:41 AND REVELATION 20:10.

**** **AND THAT IS THE DEMON'S DESTINY, ONE DAY.** HOWEVER, IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR JUDGE, THE DEMONS COULD ONLY PLEAD THAT THEIR APPOINTED TIME OF JUDGMENT AND PUNISHMENT HAD NOT YET COME.

3. NOW WE START TO SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY IN V. 29, THE POWER OF JESUS. PLEASE LOOK AT V. 29 PLEASE.

II. THE POWER OF JESUS, (READ V. 29)

A. NOW JESUS' POWER IS MANIFESTED HERE BY COMMANDING THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT TO COME OUT OF THE MAN, WHICH ALL THE DEMONS WILL COME OUT, WHICH THEY ACTUALLY WILL COME OUT IN V. 33. DEMONS MUST OBEY THE LORD, HE IS ALL POWERFUL.

* HOWEVER, WHAT WE HAVE BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY COME OUT, WHICH AGAIN THEY WILL IN V. 33, WAS A LITTLE FLASHBACK IN DETAILS OF THE MADNESS AND SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH OF THIS MAN AS HE WAS BOUND WITH CHAINS AND SHACKLES TO TRY TO CONTROL HIM, BUT THROUGH THE DEMONS HAD AMAZING PHYSICAL STRENGTH.

** SO IT APPEARS THAT THE COMMAND BY JESUS IN THE BEGINNING OF V. 29 IS BEST UNDERSTOOD AS JESUS HAD BEGUN TO COMMAND THE EVIL SPIRITS TO COME OUT, BUT LUKE ADDS A FEW DETAILS BEFORE THEY ACTUALLY COME OUT.

*** AND ONE OF THOSE DETAILS THAT LUKE GIVES US IS THE QUESTION JESUS ASKS IN V. 30. LOOK AT V.30 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 30. NOW ADDRESSING THE DEMON SPOKESPERSON INDWELLING THIS MAN, JESUS ASKED WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

* NOW NO NAME FOR THE MAN IS GIVEN, BUT INSTEAD, THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE **DEMONS, WHO HAD CONTROL OVER THE MAN'S** VOICE SAID LEGION.

** AND THAT WAS AN APPROPRIATE DESIGNATION OR FACT, FOR MANY HAD ENTERED THIS MAN.

*** FOR LEGION IS NOT SO MUCH A NAME BUT A TERM REFERRING TO A UNIT OF ROMAN SOLDIERS IN THAT DAY WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN AS MANY AS 6,826 MEN.

**** THE POINT BEING, THIS MAN WAS INDWELT BY LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF DEMONS, IN FACT AT LEAST 2,000 OF THEM FOR MARK SAYS IN HIS COMPANION PARALLEL PASSAGE IN MARK 5:13 THERE WERE ABOUT 2,000 PIGS THAT THOSE DEMONS WILL INDWELL, THAT THEY WILL ENTER.

1. SO THIS MAN HAS THOUSANDS OF DEMONS INDWELLING HIM. AND NOTICE WHAT THESE DEMONS REQUEST OF JESUS IN V. 31. LOOK AT V. 31 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 31. NOW V. 31 AMPLIFIES AND EXPANDS WHAT THE DEMONS SAID IN V. 28, WHERE THEY ASKED NOT TO BE TORMENTED.

* FOR THE PANICKED DEMONS HERE IN V. 31 WERE BEGGING JESUS NOT TO COMMAND THEM TO GO AWAY INTO THE ABYSS.

** AND THE ABYSS IS NOT THE LAKE OF FIRE **WHICH IS THE DEMON'S FINAL PLACE OF** JUDGMENT , BUT IS THE BOTTOMLESS PIT AND IS A PLACE WHERE SOME DEMONS ARE CURRENTLY IMPRISONED.

*** AND SOME OF THESE IMPRISONED SPIRITS OR DEMONS WILL BE RELEASED FOR A BRIEF TIME DURING THE TRIBULATION ACCORDING TO REVELATION 9:1-11.

**** YET THERE ARE OTHERS THAT ARE PERMANENTLY BOUND UNTIL THEIR JUDGMENT IN THE LAKE OF FIRE ACCORDING TO II PETER **2:4 WHICH SAYS: "FOR IF GOD DID NOT SPARE ANGELS WHEN THEY SINNED, BUT CAST THEM INTO HELL AND COMMITTED THEM TO PITS OF DARKNESS, RESERVED FOR JUDGMENT."**

1. JUDE V. 6 – **"AND ANGELS WHO DID NOT KEEP THEIR OWN DOMAIN, BUT ABANDONED THEIR PROPER ABODE, HE HAS KEPT IN ETERNAL BONDS UNDER DARKNESS FOR THE JUDGMENT OF THE GREAT DAY."**

* NOW THESE DEMONS ARE PERMANENTLY BOUND AND THEY WILL REMAIN UNTIL THEY ARE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

** NOW THE DEMONS IN OUR TEXT WERE TERRIFIED OF THIS, KNOWING JESUS HAD THE POWER AND AUTHORITY TO IMPRISON THEM NOW IN THE ABYSS.

*** SO IN DESPERATION, THEY PROPOSE AN ALTERNATE DESTINATION. LOOK AT V. 32 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 32. NOW IN DESPERATION THE DEMONS KNEW WHO JESUS WAS, LOOK AROUND FOR A WAY OF ESCAPE, THEY KNEW THEY WERE NOT GOING TO BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THEIR PRESENT STATE BY JESUS.

* SO FROM A DISTANCE FROM WHERE THEY WERE AT THEY SAW A HERD OF MANY PIGS FEEDING. AND THE WORD MANY IS VERY ACCURATE, FOR MARK IN MARK 5:13 SAYS THERE WERE ABOUT 2000 OF THEM.

** NOW SEEING THIS HERD OF PIGS LEADS THEM TO MAKE A REQUEST OF JESUS BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO OCCUPY SOMETHING AND IF THEY **COULDN'T OCCUPY** THIS MAN THEY COULD OCCUPY THESE SWINE.

*** SO THE DEMONS IMPLORE JESUS, LIT. BEG, ENTREAT JESUS TO PERMIT THEM TO ENTER THE SWINE, THE PIGS.

**** NOW THE REQUEST OF THESE DEMONS SEEMS RATHER BIZARRE. AND WE ARE NOT TOLD SPECIFICALLY WHY THEY WANTED TO INHABIT PIGS.

***** PERHAPS THEY THOUGHT THE LORD HAD CHANGED HIS TIMETABLE FOR JUDGMENT AND WOULD OTHERWISE IMMEDIATELY THROW THEM INTO THE GREAT ABYSS.

1. AND EVEN INHABITING PIGS WOULD BE MUCH BETTER THAN THAT. PERHAPS BECAUSE SWINE WERE THE MOST UNCLEAN OF ALL UNCLEAN ANIMALS TO THE JEWS, THE DEMONS THOUGHT JESUS WOULD NOT CARE IF THE DEMONS TOOK CONTROL OF THEM.

* OR MAYBE BY INHABITING AND THEN DESTROYING THE PIGS, PERHAPS THEY COULD **CAUSE THE PIGS' OWNERS AND OTHERS** IN THE AREA TO TURN AGAINST JESUS. PERHAPS JESUS WOULD BE KILLED FOR KILLING THE PIGS.

** BUT WHATEVER THE REASON FOR THE DEMONS REQUEST, IT WAS PREDICTED ON THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT JESUS WOULD NOT ALLOW THEM TO REMAIN WHERE THEY WERE.

*** AND JESUS WILL GIVE THEM PERMISSION TO GO INTO THE SWINE.

A. AND ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 8:32 AGAIN, **CHRIST'S POWER IS MANIFEST BY SAYING ONE WORD** AND THIS LEGION OF DEMONS IS CAST OUT. ONE WORD, GO, OR BEGONE DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU USE AND IT HAPPENS.

* NOW DEMONS, ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, ARE POWERFUL, AND HERE WE MAY HAVE THOUSANDS OF THEM, BUT JESUS IS ALL-POWERFUL FOR HE IS GOD AND HIS POWER IS MANIFEST BY A ONE WORD COMMAND, GO OR BEGONE AND THEY ARE CAST OUT OF THIS MAN INTO THESE PIGS. AND WHAT DO THE PIGS DO? LOOK AT V. 33 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 33. NOW AS THESE DEMONS ARE CAST INTO THE PIGS, THE PIGS GO INTO A FRENZY AND RUN DOWN THE STEEP BANK, THIS STEEP PLACE, POSSIBLY A PRECIPICE AND DIVE INTO THE WATER AND DROWN.

*** NOW YOU'VE HEARD** OF A SWAN DIVE BEFORE, **WELL WHAT WE HAVE HERE AND I'VE BEEN** WAITING 8 CHAPTERS IN LUKE TO TELL THIS, SO **IT'S O.K. TO LAUGH, PLEASE DON'T BOO,** THESE **PIGS DIDN'T DO A SWAN DIVE BUT A,** SWINE DIVE. (THANK YOU)

** BUT MOVING ON IN ALL SERIOUSNESS, MANY PEOPLE WONDER WHY JESUS WOULD ALLOW SO MANY ANIMALS, EVEN UNCLEAN PIGS, TO BE DESTROYED JUST TO CATER TO THE BIZARRE REQUEST OF A BUNCH OF DEMONS.

1. AND WE DON'T KNOW WHY HERE FOR SURE. BUT A REMINDER THAT ANIMALS WERE **CREATED FOR MAN'S USE AND CONSUMPTION** AND THOSE PIGS WERE DESTINED FOR SLAUGHTER ANYWAY COULD BE A THOUGHT.

* OTHERS SUGGEST THIS WAS A JUDGMENT UPON JEWS WHO WERE RAISING AND PROFITING FROM RAISING UNCLEAN ANIMALS, WHICH THEY HAD NO BUSINESS DOING AND **THAT'S A POSSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH SOME** COMMENTATORS SUGGEST THIS WAS A PREDOMINATELY GENTILE AREA, WHICH IT WAS.

** OTHERS SUGGEST THAT JESUS DID THIS TO SHOW THE HARDNESS OF THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THERE, THAT IT SHOWS WHERE THEIR TREASURE WAS BY THEIR RESPONSE TO JESUS IN ASKING HIM TO LEAVE.

*** BUT WHATEVER IT IS, **LUKE'S PURPOSE IN** REPORTING THIS INCIDENT WAS TO **DEMONSTRATE CHRIST'S AUTHORITY AND** POWER OVER SATAN AND HIS FORCES.

**** FOR THE FACT THAT THE DEMONS WENT INTO THE SWINE AND THE SWINE REACTING IN THE FRENZY THEY DID WAS DRAMATIC AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAD LEFT THE MAN. NO ONE COULD ARGUE WITH THAT FACT.

2. THERE COULD BE NO DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THE OBSERVERS AS TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THE POWER OF JESUS OVER DEMONS WAS MADE PERFECTLY CLEAR. JESUS IS THE ALL POWERFUL ONE.

* WHICH LEADS US TO OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE PEOPLE, LOOK AT V. 34 PLEASE.

III. THE PERSPECTIVE, (READ V. 34)

A. NOW WHEN THE HERDSMEN SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PIGS THEY RAN AWAY AND REPORTED IT TO THE NEARBY CITY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA OR COUNTRY.

* AND THE FACT THAT THEY REPORTED EVERYTHING, INCLUDING THE INCIDENT OF THE DEMONIACS, INDICATES THEY REALIZED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ANIMALS.

** I MEAN THE PIGS MASS SUICIDE PROVED THAT JESUS HAD INDEED CAST THE DEMONS OUT OF THE MAN. SO THE EVIDENCE WAS IRREFUTABLE.

*** THEY MIGHT ARGUE THAT IT WAS JUST A TEMPORARY RECOVERY, A SHORT REMISSION, A FLUKE.

**** NO ONE COULD ARGUE WITH ABOUT 2000 PIGS FLOATING AROUND IN THE SEA OF GALILEE DEAD, SOMETHING VERY UNUSUAL HAPPENED. SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT BE EXPLAINED ANY OTHER WAY. IT WAS SUPERNATURAL. NOW LOOK AT V. 35.

B. READ V. 35. NOW THE TOWNSPEOPLE WERE SO AMAZED BY THE REPORT OF THE HERDSMEN, THAT THEY ALL CAME OUT TO SEE WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

* AND WHAT THEY SAW WAS A MAN THAT WAS A MANIAC, NOW **SITTING AT JESUS' FEET FULLY** CLOTHED IN HIS RIGHT MIND.

**** AND THIS MAN'S RADICAL CHANGE WAS** UNDENIABLE, IT WAS COMPLETE, AND IT WAS UNEXPLAINABLE FROM A NATURAL HUMAN PERSPECTIVE, IT WAS SUPERNATURAL.

*** THE DEMONS WERE GONE AND OBVIOUSLY AS A RESULT THIS MAN WAS SAVED FROM HIS SINS. FOR THE PICTURE HERE IS A MAGNIFICENT PICTURE OF THE TRANSFORMATION OF SALVATION, OF BEING MADE WELL, V. 36 AT THE END, LIT. MEANING SAVED.

**** AND RATHER THAN REJOICING OVER THIS MAN THAT HAD BEEN DELIVERED AND TRANSFORMED, THEY DO NOT REJOICE, THEY BECAME FRIGHTENED.

1. OR YOU WOULD THINK THEY AT LEAST WOULD BE RELIEVED, HE NO LONGER POSED A THREAT TO THEM; BUT NO, THEY BECAME FRIGHTENED.

* AND THE WORD TRANSLATED FRIGHTENED TRANSLATES THE GREEK WORD PHOBEO WHICH REFERS TO BEING TERRIFIED, TO EXTREME FEAR, A ROOT OF OUR ENGLISH WORD PHOBIA.

** AND WHAT WERE THEY AFRAID OF? MAYBE OF MORE MATERIAL LOSS IF JESUS HUNG AROUND, I MEAN THE LOSS OF 2,000 PIGS WOULD BE A LARGE SUM OF MONEY. 2,000 HOGS IS A LOT OF BACON, RIGHT?

*** OR MAYBE THEY THOUGHT HE WOULD GO AROUND CHANGING EVERYTHING WHERE THEY LIVED, THEIR WAY OF LIFE, ESPECIALLY IF A LOT OF OTHER HERDSMEN WERE RAISING PIGS.

**** OR MAYBE THEY REALIZED THAT THEY WERE SINNERS IN THE PRESENCE OF A HOLY GOD, ANSWERING THE QUESTION OF LUKE 8:25, WHO IS THIS MAN THAT HE COMMANDS AND POWERFUL CHANGE TAKES PLACE? MAYBE THEY THOUGHT JESUS WOULD CHANGE THEM **AND THEY DIDN'T WANT CHANGED**, BUT FOR SURE THEY ARE RATTLED, THEY ARE TERRIFIED, NOT COMFORTED. THEIR HEARTS ARE HARD, THIS REPRESENTS THE HARD SOIL IN THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS.

2. AND AGAIN YOU WOULD THINK THEY WOULD BE A LITTLE HAPPY FOR THIS GUY. LOOK AT V. 36 PLEASE.

F. READ V. 36. NOW THE EYEWITNESSES, THE HERDSMEN REPORTED THAT THE MAN WHO WAS DEMON POSSESSED WAS THE GUY WHO WAS MADE WELL.

* BUT NO HAPPINESS HERE ABOUT THAT. AND ONE MAN COMMENTING ABOUT THIS SAID, AND IT REFLECTS THE RESPONSE OF MANKIND IN GENERAL **TO JESUS: "ALL DOWN THE AGES THE WORLD HAS BEEN REFUSING JESUS, BECAUSE IT PREFERS THE PIGS!"**

** AND HOW TRUE THAT IS. GOLD OVER GOD, MAMMON OVER THE MASTER, GAIN OVER GODLINESS, AND EVEN TODAY, ANIMAL LIFE OVER HUMAN LIFE, AS WE PROTECT AND LOVE ANIMALS, BUT NOT UNBORN BABIES.

*** **AND WHAT WILL THESE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE** BE TO JESUS. WELL IT IS FOUND IN V. 37. LOOK AT V. 37 PLEASE.

G. READ V. 37. NOW DO THESE PEOPLE WANT JESUS? THE ANSWER IS NO. THEY ASK HIM TO LEAVE FOR THEY WERE GRIPPED WITH GREAT FEAR, NOT THE FEAR OF GOD, NOT A REVERENTIAL FEAR, NOT AWE, BUT TREMBLING **AND TERROR FEAR. THEY DIDN'T WANT THEIR LIVES CHANGED.** THEY WANTED THE STATUS QUO. THEY WANTED THEIR HAM, PORK CHOPS, THEIR PULLED PORK AND THEIR BACON. WHAT? NO MORE PORK BARBECUE!

* THEY WANTED TO GET RID OF JESUS, HE WOULD CRAMP THEIR LIFESTYLE.

** WELL, JESUS GRANTED THEIR REQUEST, HE **DIDN'T CAST HIS PEARLS BEFORE SWINE, HE GOT INTO A BOAT AND LEFT.**

***** HOWEVER, IN HIS GREAT LOVE, HE DIDN'T** LEAVE THIS PEOPLE WITHOUT A WITNESS, FOR THE MANIAC BECOMES A MISSIONARY. LOOK AT **V. 38 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR** LAST POINT TODAY, THE PLAN OF JESUS FOR THIS MAN HE SAVED, AND FOR THE PEOPLE THAT REJECTED HIM.

IV. THE PLAN, (READ V. 38)

A. NOW I'M THANKFUL TODAY THAT THIS **STORY DOESN'T END IN V. 37. THIS MAN** SHOWS A CLEAR FRUIT OF CONVERSION, HE WANTS TO FOLLOW JESUS, QUOTE JOHN 10:27 AND JOHN 8:12.

* NOW THIS MAN WHO HAS BEEN DELIVERED FROM SIN AND DEMONS, IN HIS WILLINGNESS TO FORSAKE ALL AND FOLLOW CHRIST SHOWS AGAIN THAT HE HAD BEEN SAVED.

** JESUS WAS HIS LORD AND SAVIOR. AND HE NATURALLY WANTED TO GO WITH HIM AND SERVE AND LEARN, BUT JESUS HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN FOR HIM, LOOK AT V. 39 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 39. **NOW CHRIST'S PLAN FOR THIS** MAN WAS TO GO HOME AND TELL PEOPLE IN HIS HOME OF WHAT GREAT THINGS GOD DID FOR HIM.

*** AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT'S EXACTLY** WHAT HE DID!

** HE WENT HOME TO HIS HOME AND CITY PROCLAIMED LIT. PREACHED THROUGHOUT HIS WHOLE CITY WHAT JESUS DID FOR HIM.

*** HE WAS THE LONE WITNESS OF THE GOSPEL TO HIS TOWN, THIS MAN WAS OBEDIENT, WHICH FURTHER SHOWS EVIDENCE HE WAS SAVED.

**** AND ACCORDING TO THE PARALLEL TEXT IN MARK 5:20, WHICH JARED READ TO YOU TODAY, WHEN PEOPLE HEARD THE MESSAGE, **"EVERYONE WAS AMAZED."**

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) THE MANIAC BECAME A MISSIONARY. AND MANY TIMES WHEN WE THINK OF MISSION WORK, WE THINK OF GOING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND GOD CLEARLY CALLS MEN AND WOMEN TO DO THAT, AND I AM THANKFUL FOR THAT. PRAISE THE LORD FOR THEM AND MEN LIKE PASTOR GREG AND OTHERS AS WE GO OUT INTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH.

* HOWEVER, FOR MOST OF US, OUR MISSION WORK BEGINS IN JERUSALEM, IN OUR HOME, OUR CITY, OUR COUNTRY.

** AND YOU KNOW WHAT, THE GOSPEL BEGINS AT HOME.

*** AT HOME IN YOUR HOUSE, TO OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. IT BEGINS IN LOUISVILLE, CANTON, HARTVILLE, NORTH CANTON, ETC.

**** AND BELOVED, WE MUST START THERE. AND IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO SERVE AND START THERE, GOD WILL NOT CALL YOU TO ITALY OR SPAIN OR MEXICO.

(2) AND I AM NOT PUTTING THOSE FIELDS DOWN, OR SPEAKING IN A NEGATIVE WAY ABOUT GOING TO ANY OF THOSE PLACES, PRAISE THE LORD FOR THOSE WHO DO.

* BUT THOSE PEOPLE STARTED AT HOME. AND IN ACTS 1:8 IT STARTS IN OUR JERUSALEM.

** AND THE MAN WHO WAS DELIVERED FROM SIN AND DEMONS IN OUR TEXT TODAY, **WANTED TO GO WITH JESUS, BUT CHRIST'S PLAN WAS GO HOME FIRST.** AND MAY WE DO THAT.

**** AND YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT'S THE MOST**
DIFFICULT PLACE TO START. WITH FAMILY.
THEY KNOW US THE BEST, BUT THEY NEED THE
GOSPEL **AND THAT'S WHERE WE START AND**
MOVE OUT FROM THERE.

**** AND IF THEY ARE AROUND YOU, YOU MUST
START THERE, IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY, NOT
SOMEONE ELSE'S.

***** WE HAVE THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL.
MAY WE PROCLAIM IT. TRUE MISSIONARY
ACTIVITY BEGINS AT HOME AND THEN
SALVATION REACHES OUT. MAY WE BE
FAITHFUL WITNESSES AND FULFILL OUR
MISSION. (LET'S PRAY)