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Matthew 8:28-34
Jesus' Power Over Demons!

Intro: Jesus showed His eternal Divinity in the miracles He wrought. In verses 28-34, Jesus demonstrated His power over demon possession. Demon possession is when a demonic spirit inhabits a human host. Demon possession is real. It is not limited to Biblical times. Demons are still inhabiting and harassing people today. This is frightening for many people. The subject of demon possession is fear-provoking. If you are unsaved, you are right to fear. But if you are saved there is no need to fear because demons can't inhabit Christians. Nowhere in the Bible will you read that a saved person was demon possessed. Clean and unclean spirits cannot dwell in the same human host.

There is not a lot known and said about demons. From the word of God, we know that demons are fallen angels. Demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God and who were defeated and cast out of heaven along with Satan (Revelation 12:7-9). Demons continue to serve the devil in his attempt to lead the world away from God and into sin. Their assignment is to wreak havoc in the earth.

Verse 28 tells us that Jesus and His disciples made it to the other side. The other side is the country of the Gadarenes. Gadara

Just a few steps in length from the sea an immense mountain rises directly above it. The mountain held ancient tombs. Jesus walking the Roman road near the graveyard met two demon possessed men. Matthew gives description to the men—Exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. Notice the words “exceeding fierce.” “Exceeding fierce” means that they were wicked, malignant, mischievous, and troublesome through the influence of the demons in them. Matthew 8:28 says that the demon possessed men were so fierce that people literally were afraid to travel the Roman road near the cemetery. Mark 5:3-5 describes one of the men as wild, super strong, and suicidal. It is frightening to be near someone who is wild, super strong, and suicidal. Luke 8:27-30 says that one of the men had thousands of demons inhabiting him. He wore no clothes neither abode in any house, and had super natural strength to break chains, fetters, and bands. The two demon possessed men were exceedingly fierce.

Several things to notice from verses 28-34 about Jesus' power over demon possession.

- I. **Dwelling of the Demoniacs:** Verse 28 Coming out of the Tombs. The Greek shows that they did not merely come from among the tombs, but actually out of them. The demons who were in the men delighted to dwell in a place of desolation and ruin. The burial ground is a place for the dead. The demons drove the men into the cemetery. Their dwelling denote Satan's agenda. There is nothing life giving or life affirming about Satan and his demons. Satan's agenda is to destroy life. Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” In verse 28 the agenda of Satan is clearly seen in the two demon-possessed men's dwelling. They are coming out of the graveyard. The gospels of Mark and Luke give further details. Luke 8:27 says one man ran around naked. Mark 5:5 says one man was cutting himself with sharp stones. Demons torment to influence people to take their own life.

The demons made a wreck of these two men's lives. They had stolen the men from their homes and families. The demons stole their peace and sanity. They had driven the men off from community and doomed them to isolation among the graveyard.

II. Dread of the Demons: The demons knew exactly who Jesus was—they call Him “Son of God.” The demons acknowledged Jesus as more than just a man. He is the Son of God. James 2:19 says, ***“You believe that there is one God. Even the demons believe that and tremble.”***

A. The Demons Dreaded Jesus' Presence: Verse 29 ***They cried out, saying what have we to do with you? Thou Son of God?***

What have we to do with you? Jewish phrase—“what have we to do with you” is an abrupt refusal of some request, or a wish not to be troubled with the company of others. The demons wanted nothing to do with Jesus. His presence was unwelcomed.

B. The Demons Dreaded Jesus' Power: Verse 29 ***Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?***

The demons were well-aware of their ultimate fate. They also knew that Jesus had Divine power to send them to their final doom.

Notice, Jesus did not employ His inherit Divine power against Satan's kingdom to disturb the conditions under which evil exists in the world. In other words, Jesus did not use His Divine power to rid the world of evilness at that particular time!

The demons knew there is an appointed time for their destruction. It is sometimes referred to as “final judgment” or “final destruction.”

Final destruction for Satan and his demons is coming. Jesus said in Matthew 25:41, ***“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”***

The demons have good theology:

- 1) They believe in the existence of God—Son of God.
- 2) They believe in the deity of Jesus Christ—Son of God.
- 3) They believe in final judgment—Are you here to torment us.

The demons knew why Jesus came to earth. 1 John 3:8 says, ***“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”***

III. Deliverance of the men: Verses 30-32

Jesus delivered the men from demon possession. The swines were far from Jesus and the demoniacs. The herd of swine did not have to pass near the demoniacs. There was distance between the demoniacs and the swine.

The demons besought Jesus, saying, If you cast us out, suffer us to go into the herd of swine. The unclean spirits chose the unclean. Swines are unclean animals according to Leviticus 11:7-8. Leviticus 11:7-8 say, ***“And the pig, though it has a split hoof***

completely divided, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you.”

They asked Jesus to cast them into the unclean animals. Jesus uttered one word of command—“Go.” The demons felt His power; they obeyed. At that moment, the two men were saved from demon possession.

Destructive nature of demons—When the demons entered into the herd of swine, the whole herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

Duty of the demons continued—Remember that the presence of Jesus was unwelcomed by the demons. Also remember the final destruction of demons was not yet. Therefore, the demons were not destroyed when the herd of swine perished in the waters. The demons entered into the people of the city. Verses 33-34 say, “*And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.”*