



Week of June 20, 2021

**Lessons in Luke: Healing the Demon-possessed
Luke 8:26-39**

Day One: Read Luke 8:26-28

So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town. As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!"

- The Bible says that we are filled with Christ's Spirit. In that way, we are the risen Christ! When people encounter us, they should encounter Christ. In these opening verses, this young man has an encounter with Christ that ends with him asking, "what do you want from me?!" When people come to you in distress, what do you think draws them to you? How might you be Christ to them?

Day Two: Read Luke 8:29-33

For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him. This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power. Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, for he was filled with many demons. The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit. There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs. So Jesus gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.

- Many people fighting addiction can resonate with the story of this young man. He was under the control of these spirits and couldn't get something like sanity. Do you ever feel that way? Have you considered that connecting the Jesus through another Christian, prayer, or the church might be a way to bring sanity into your life?

Day Three: Read Luke 8:34-37

When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake.

- Judging by the reaction of the people to the healing of this man, they must have felt as though he was 'long-gone.' They were genuinely shocked that Jesus was able to restore him to sanity. Are there people in your life, or are there times in your life when you feel as though you are too far gone?

Day Four: Read Luke 8:38

The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying,

- Many of us who have been broken by one thing or another and have then been released from that brokenness have a calling to "go and tell." What are things that keep you from sharing your story of recovery with others?

Day Five: Read Luke 8:39

“No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

- This is an important verse because Luke notes the way that instead of the man saying what “God had done for him” he tells people “what Jesus had done for him.” The Bible says in multiple places that if you encounter Jesus, then you encounter God. Sometimes we can feel pressured to accept the general example of Jesus and the idea of God, but not the particularity or uniqueness of Jesus as God. It seems to narrow. How do you navigate that tension in our pluralistic culture?