

# The Ghost and the DARKNESS

The Ghost And The Darkness  
Luke 8:26-39



26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee.

27 And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs.

28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, 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 it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.

30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him.

31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

32 Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them.

33 Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned.

34 When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.

35 Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

36 They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed.

37 Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned.

38 Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying,

39 "Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you." And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.

NKJV



What did Jesus believe about demons based on this story?

### 1. Jesus believed in demons

The word demon literally means devil. It is derived from the word daimon. The word daio means to distribute fortunes. A demon is a personal spirit being with an evil nature that distributes bad fortunes.

Like Satan, demons are fallen angels. (Rev. 12:3-9; Hebrews 12:22) They followed Satan, they fell with Satan, and they were cast down on the earth with Satan after the sixth day of creation.

In this story...

- Demons communicated with Jesus.
- Demons could think, feel, and act.
- Demons had personal names.
- Demons followed personal direction from Jesus.

They had the characteristics of personal beings.

Jesus believed in demons.

## 2. Jesus believed demons could dwell in people

In John 3....

- Jesus taught Nicodemus that people were spiritual beings that dwell in a physical body.
- Jesus taught that as spiritual beings, people die and leave their bodies behind.
- Jesus taught that as spiritual beings, people could be born again in their spirit.
- Jesus taught that as spiritual beings people can be joined by other spiritual beings in the same body.

Jesus believed demons could dwell in the bodies of human beings.

## 3. Jesus believed demons could empower people

In this story, this man had supernatural strength. He could not be bound with chains.

In Acts, a young lady has supernatural fortune telling abilities. (Acts 16:16-18)

In Acts, a demonized man overpowered a group of men that were trying to exercise the demon. (Acts 19:13-17)

Jesus believed demons could empower people.

## 4. Jesus believed demons could over power people.

This man still had a free will. He ran to meet Jesus and worshipped him rather than running away from him. But his free will was limited. The demons could seize him, and he could not control himself. He would then be forced to do things that he did not want to do. He cut himself. He removed his cloths. He lived among the tombs.

He was being overpowered mentally and emotionally by demons. He was so tormented that he cried out day and night.

Jesus believed demons could over power people.

## 5. Jesus believed demons could afflict people

This man was afflicted mentally and emotionally. He heard voices and felt compelled to do things that he did not want to do. He experienced irrational fears.

In other stories, people were afflicted physically. The function of their bodies was being limited by a demon.

Matthew 12:22-blind and mute

Mark 9:25-Deaf and mute

Luke 13:11-a crippled woman

Jesus believed demons could afflict people.

#### 6. Jesus believed demons could be cast out of people

Jesus was God. As God He has authority over heaven and earth. Jesus exercised His authority to cast out these demons and set this man free. In other stories he gave his disciples authority to use His name to cast out demons. He promised He would support their efforts with His authority.

When the demons were cast out, people were instantly healed of their affliction. The man in this story was healed of his mental and emotional affliction. He was in his right mind. Others that were set free from demons were made whole physically.

Jesus believed demons could be cast out of people.

#### 1. What caused this man to become demon possessed?

No explanation is given. There is not an explanation given in any of the stories. Who and why demons target certain people is not revealed by God in the bible.

#### 2. How are demons using their power today? (John 10:10)

- Defraud  
Destiny and identity
- Death  
War; mass shootings; terrorism; murder; abortion.
- Destruction
  - a) Excessive self-indulgence through alcohol, drugs, gambling, and sex
  - b) Sexual and physical assaults
  - c) Poverty
  - d) Divorce
  - e) Abandonment
  - f) Racism
  - g) Anxiety and depression
  - h) Physical illness

People are out of control.

#### 3. What can you do to be freed from demons? (John 10:10)

Receive Jesus. Trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Subject yourself to His authority.

#### 4. How do we protect ourselves from demons?

- [Walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh \(Gal. 5:16-26\)](#)

Demons cannot possess disciples of Jesus, but they can oppress us mentally and emotionally with their lies.

- Peter said they seek to devour us. (1 Peter 5:8).
- Paul urged the church at Ephesus to fight for their faith. (Ephesians 6:12-18)

We have authority to defeat demons. But we must walk with the Spirit to exercise that authority. If we walk in the flesh, we open a door to be oppressed mentally and emotionally by demons.

- [Walk away from fellowship with demons \(1 Cor. 10:14-21\)](#)

Paul warned the church to avoid having fellowship with demons. Some in the church at Corinth were having fellowship with demons by participating in idol festivals. Apparently, the food was really good at these festivals.

We should avoid anything that would permit a demon to oppress us mentally and emotionally. Everything is permissible, but everything is not profitable. (1 Cor. 10:23)

Satan's goal is not just to tempt you or oppress you. He wants to lead you into bondage and to forsake your faith in Christ. (1 Timothy 4:1)

### Invitation

Receive Jesus

Rededicate yourself to walk in the Spirit and walk away from fellowship with demons.