

## Luke 8:26-39 – When the Deliverer comes

- Over the last 13 weeks we have seen some wonderful moments.
  - Amazing miracles
  - Teaching that is second to none.
- Last week we saw Jesus power over nature as He calmed the storm showing us that He is both fully God and fully man.
  - It's a passage that gives us both comfort and hope in the trials and storms of life that we face.
    - With God in our boat any storm is manageable.
- Today we see Jesus again display His power over demons again, His love for individuals and His purpose for those who truly follow Him.
- To help us understand this story we are going to look at five areas (don't worry they are all brief). We are going to look at:
  - Location
  - Condition
  - Confrontation
  - Restoration
  - Response

### **Location of the man**

- The storm calms and they complete their journey across the lake from Galilee in this region of the Gerasene's.
  - Up until this point Jesus' ministry has focused in and around Galilee which was a Jewish area.
    - Jesus was a Jew and first brought His message to the Jews.
  - Here we have Jesus making His first trip into gentile territory.
    - Gentile is simply anyone who isn't a Jew
    - Again, Jesus is truly for everyone.
- We know this was a gentile, non-Jewish, region for several reasons.
  - History tells us
  - Luke tells us by speaking of the pig farming.
    - Jews wouldn't keep pigs since they view them as unclean animals.
- For a Jew to enter this region have been a big no no.
  - Firstly it's a gentile area and secondly it's a grave yard.
  - Jews saw both graveyards/tombs and pigs as unclean and so to associate with either would have made them ceremonially unclean.
- But Jesus, a Jew himself, doesn't let that stop Him coming to this region or from engaging with this demon possessed man.
  - Jesus came not only to save the Jews but also the Gentiles
    - He came to save all who would believe.
      - Jesus moved from village to village, region to region and from Jews to Gentiles but His message remained the same to all.
        - Trust in me and receive eternal life.

### **Condition of the man**

- Luke being the good physician that he is describes for us both the physical condition and character of this demon possessed man.
  - Physical – naked, homeless, supernaturally strong.
  - Character – rage, fear, torment.
- As a result of demon possession this man had ended up living at the total control of demons, isolated from society.
  - They wanted nothing to do with him, no doubt was scared of him and tried to chain him up so that he could hurt them or himself.
- This man had crossed the boundary of human decency and had absolutely lost everything, including control of his life.
  - One commentator said ‘this man was essentially view by society as no better than a wild animal. He was demonised, marginalised and hopeless’
- When Jesus asks the man his name its not the man who responds but the demons, the man is totally gone
  - The demons called themselves Legion because there are so many of them
    - A roman legion was up to 6000 men
      - This man was majorly demon possessed.
- All of this is until Jesus comes along
  - Jesus sees this man and what’s the first thing he does?
    - He asks him his name.
      - Whilst friends, family, his village had shunned and isolated him Jesus cares.
      - That’s how personal Jesus interaction is with people.
        - When Jesus enters the region there is the first glimmer of hope for the man.
- Now in our western culture you may at this point be thinking well none of this applies to me as demons are a thing of the past.
  - Well, they are not. They still exist today, and Satan still uses them today
    - Story of George Osborn.
      - There is a spiritual battle going on and we need to be aware.

### **Confrontation with the man**

- As Jesus arrived on the shore this man and what a sight it must have been as he comes racing towards him.
  - A naked, blood stained, demonic man coming towards you.
- On the demon possessed man’s part for the demons there was clearly an element of fear and attraction.
  - Attraction because they cause the man to come to Jesus
  - Fear because they are crying out, shouting at the top of their voice what do you want with us. They beg Jesus
- The demons know exactly who Jesus is
  - They acknowledge it in v28 – He is the Son of the Most High God.
    - The demons can answer the question the disciples have just asked in the boat – Who is this man? V25.

- James 2v19 – demons are in no doubt about who Jesus is.
- Because the demons know who Jesus is, they are fearful of Him because they know He is far more powerful than they are and they have to obey His commands.
  - The demons are powerful enough to destroy this man's life and to make him super strong
    - But they are not on the same level as Jesus.
      - This is not a battle between two equal forces.
        - God is far more powerful than Satan and has full control over Satan
          - But in His sovereign purposes God allows Satan to act.
  - The demons knowing this are begging Jesus
    - to not torture them
      - They have been torturing this man but they don't want to be treated the same way
    - To not destroy them
      - They knew He had the power to.
- Evil forces only work for destruction and they destroy people. Jesus came to do the opposite He saves, frees and restores.

### **Restoration of the man**

- To free this man from the demons Jesus grants the request of the demons and doesn't immediately destroy or torture them instead He send them into the pigs.
- The pigs to the shock and horror of those tending them run down a steep bank and into the lake and die.
- Why does Jesus grant this request?
  - To the gentiles in the area the pigs were a valuable resource.
    - They would have eaten them but they also would have sold them to the occupying Roman forces.
      - In this act they lost food and money
  - The demons also only got a short stay of execution as the pigs drowned they would have also been destroyed.
- Luke, or any of the other gospels, do not answer the question as to why Jesus allows it
  - I think it is because Jesus valued the life of one man as far greater value than the pigs.
    - From the creation account we see that from the beginning of time humans are far more important to God than animals.
      - It is only when mankind is made that God declares it as 'very' good
        - Humans and animals are not on the same level
          - Sorry.
- Yes the pigs die but look at the change in the man
  - He goes from being
    - Naked to clothed
    - Out of his mind to in his right mind
    - Isolated to in community
    - Wandering to sitting

- Lost to found
- Hopeless to hopeful.
- Jesus transforms individuals.

### **Response of each group**

- We see the response of the villagers, the man and Jesus.

#### The villagers response

- Very different to what you would expect
- Rather than wanting to know about the one who saved this man and flocking to see Jesus
- The town shocked at what has happen to their pigs and at seeing this man who has been uncontrollable for so long so drastically changed are afraid.
  - To have seen the power of the demons at work in the mans life and to have lived in fear of him for years and no they are confronted by Jesus with even more power must have been scary.
    - What could Jesus do?
  - Overcome with fear they ask Jesus to leave.
    - These people were happy with how things were - their pigs alive and a human demonised and they wanted Jesus gone

#### The Mans response

- The man changed in such a drastic transformation begs Jesus to go with him.
  - You can understand why.
    - He would have had shame from how he had been living
    - Jesus had just saved him of course he would want to spend more time with Jesus.

### **Response of Jesus**

- To the villages Jesus accepts their request and without objection gets into a boat to leave.
  - The people weren't ready to accept Him so He leaves.
- To the man He denies his request to come with Him
  - Jesus has a far greater purpose for him
    - Jesus purpose for the man is go and tell people how much God has done for you.
      - They aren't ready to hear it from me but they will from you as you are one of their own.
        - The man becomes a missionary to his own people.
    - Jesus also has a great purpose for each of us. Sometimes it will be to move us, other times and more often it will be to stay where we are and live for Christ.
      - Seeking the transformation of others as they come to know Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

The transformation of this man would have been so obvious. Jesus goes through a storm to the other side of the lake to meet a man who was marginalised and demonised, who had lost any sense of status in society who was completely without hope and was a figure of fun and fear. Jesus goes through the storm across the Lake sets his feet on the ground meets one individual transforms his life and gets back on the boat leaves again. Does that tell you something about Jesus? Jesus is the good shepherd who leaves the 99 to find the one. Jesus has compassion and mercy of the lost and hopeless and is in the business of transforming the lives of individuals.

You may not be playing with demons this morning; you probably aren't into the occult or Ouija board but we all worship something and are influenced by what we worship. Demons are one way of Satan working but he has many other evil ways too.

A book I recently read by Matt Chandler said this:

“Surely anyone can see that our worship switch is always set to On, and we're tuned to some ridiculously finite broadcasts. Grown men paint their bodies and surf an incalculable number of websites to follow a sports team. Go to any concert and you'll see people lift their hands spontaneously and clap and close their eyes and be spiritually moved by music. People fish or hike to be in tune with nature. We put posters on our walls, stickers on our cars, ink under our skin, and drugs into our system. We want to worship something. We are wired for it by God himself. But something has gone wrong with the wiring. Satan easily gets our focus off the true God and onto some good but inane temporal substitute. Our true god is whatever we cannot live without? The only way to avoid the demonic influence is by a constant, heavy dose of God and His Word.

You are probable not demon possessed this morning but what are you worshipping and where is it leading you? Away from God to towards God?

Jesus came seek and save the lost. He came for the battle scarred, to the broken, the demonised, to the marginalised and maybe that where you are this morning. Well Jesus is for you.

Transformation that's what Jesus does, we can make ourselves religious only Christ can change our lives. Will you accept Jesus today? If you already have then having been transformed live a life to serve the one who transformed you.

### **Summing it all up**

Over this series we have seen Jesus encounter the

- Poor and the rich
- Sick and the health
- Religious and the sinners
- Death & demons

What has He shown us through all of this? That no matter who you are, no matter what you have done in Jesus there is compassion, grace and mercy. Jesus has also demonstrated His power and authority and laid His claim as God. Jesus went on to die on a cross to forgive all who will believe all of the wrong they have ever and will ever do. To be forgiven all you need to do is to repent and believe. We have seen what others make of Jesus, but the question is who is Jesus to you?

If you are undecided, then keep asking the question and searching with an open mind.

If you have decided no – please reconsider

If you know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, then are you living a life that is radically transformed for Jesus as He calls you to?

Lets sing a song that speaks of the amazing gospel and what Jesus accomplished upon the cross. Yes Finished the Messiah dies.