

The Man with Demons in Him
(Luke 8:26-39)

Read Luke 8:26-39 and watch the video.

1. What do you observe about the possessed man? Read Luke 8:26-39 to observe the details.

2. What can fallen angels do?

3. What can fallen angels not do?

4. Why did Jesus say, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you," when He, not His Father, did the exorcism?

Note: This event is recorded in three of the gospels (Matt 8:26-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39). Matthew is the only one that records two men possessed but with less detail of the possession and interaction with Jesus. Mark and Luke focus on one of the possessed and details the effects of the possession and the demons' interaction with Jesus.

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Teacher Notes

Video Abstract (Author: Max7.org): In this confronting story, Jesus heals a demon- possessed man in Gentile territory. The man was completely healed yet people became frightened and sent Jesus away. Jesus is clearly shown as having power over evil forces. Jesus came to deal with the problem of evil. This animation is best suited for older children, teens and young adults. It could be a bit frightening and confusing for younger children.

Read Luke 8:26-39 expressively or have three students read expressively; one can be the narrator, one read as Jesus and the other as the possessed man.

Then they sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When he got out on land, a demon-possessed man from the town met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes and did not stay in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before him, and said in a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torment me!" For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was guarded, bound by chains and shackles, he would snap the restraints and be driven by the demon into deserted places.

"What is your name?" Jesus asked him.

"Legion," he said, because many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to banish them to the abyss.

A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged him to permit them to enter the pigs, and he gave them permission. The demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.

When the men who tended them saw what had happened, they ran off and reported it in the town and in the countryside. Then people went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man the demons had departed from, sitting at Jesus's feet, dressed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Meanwhile, the eyewitnesses reported to them how the demon-possessed man was delivered. Then all the people of the Gerasene region asked him to leave them, because they were gripped by great fear. So getting into the boat, he returned.

The man from whom the demons had departed begged him earnestly to be with him. But he sent him away and said, "Go back to your home, and tell all that God has done for you." And off he went, proclaiming throughout the town how much Jesus had done for him. (Luke 8:26-39, CSB)

Show the video (<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/manwithdemons>)

1. What do you observe about the possessed man? Review Luke 8:26-39 to observe the details.

Encourage the student to share their observations even to the minute detail. The man was helpless, loss control of his speech, socially isolated, and had a disregard for personal dignity.

2. What can fallen angels do? Read Luke 8:26-39 to observe the details.

Help the student understand the difference between fallen and unfallen angels. Continue to encourage good observation. Fallen angels recognize the deity of Jesus as the Son of God and fear to be tormented by Him. They can possess human beings and control their behavior and emotion. They can enable human beings to have supernatural strength and not feel much pain. More than one demon can reside in a human being.

3. What can fallen angels not do?

Encourage the student to carefully observe the text: they cannot disobey Jesus Christ. They cannot simply run away from Jesus.

4. Why did Jesus say, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you," when He, not His Father, did the exorcism?

When attempting to understand God, it means thinking as you read and grappling with the text. Often it requires reading elsewhere in the Bible to answer a question. For example, these verses help answer the question. Instruct the student to write down the verse references for future reference and consult his Bible:

John 5:18-20, NASB - For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in the same way. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.

John 12:27-28, NASB - "Now My soul has become troubled; and what am I to say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 12:47-50, NASB - If anyone hears My teachings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects Me and does not accept My teachings has one who judges him: the word which I spoke. That will judge him on the last day. For I did not speak on My own, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

As the student reviews the verses in his Bible, give him time to share his thoughts. Help the student understand that:

Jesus came to glorify God His Father. He can only do what He sees His Father doing and is commanded as to what to say and what to speak.

Note: This event is recorded in three of the gospels (Matt 8:26-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39). Matthew is the only one that records two men possessed but with less detail of the possession and interaction with Jesus. Mark and Luke focus on one of the possessed and details the effects of the possession and the demons' interaction with Jesus.

When there are several accounts of the same event in the Bible, it may be very helpful to read all accounts to gain a full picture of the event or situation. In this instance, all three gospel accounts are provided on the next page as an example to the student.

(Matt 8:28-34, NASB) - And when He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men confronted Him as they were coming out of the tombs. They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. And they cried out, saying, "What business do You have with us, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding at a distance from them. And the demons begged Him, saying, "If You are going to cast us out, send us into the herd of pigs." And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the pigs; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters. And the herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they pleaded with Him to leave their region.

(Mark 5:1-20, NASB) - They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes. When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him. He lived among the tombs; and no one was able to bind him anymore, not even with a chain, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces; and no one was strong enough to subdue him. Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and cutting himself with stones. Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" For He had already been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the region. Now there was a large herd of pigs feeding nearby on the mountain. And the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us into the pigs so that we may enter them." Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the countryside. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. And then they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had previously had the "legion"; and they became frightened. Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the pigs. And they began to beg Him to leave their region. And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was begging Him that he might accompany Him. And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

(Luke 8:26-39) - Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out onto the land, a man from the city met Him who was possessed with demons; and he had not put on clothing for a long time and was not living in a house, but among the tombs. And seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell down before Him, and said with a loud voice, "What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" For He had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break the restraints and be driven by the demon into the desert. And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; because many demons had entered him. And they were begging Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

Now there was a herd of many pigs feeding there on the mountain; and the demons begged Him to permit them to enter the pigs. And He gave them permission. And the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

Now when the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported everything in the city, and in the country. And the people came out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. Those who had seen everything reported to them how the man who had been demon-possessed had been made well. And all the people of the territory of the Gerasenes and the surrounding region asked Him to leave them, because they were overwhelmed by great fear; and He got into a boat and returned. But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city what great things Jesus had done for him.