

DROWNING PIGS

I. Luke 8:26-39

A. Today we read an extraordinary account of demon possession, deliverance, and pigs. It's an amazing account told by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Maybe you don't believe in demons or maybe you believe they once existed but no longer. Maybe you've just never really thought that much about evil spirits one way or the other...

- 1) C.S. Lewis: *"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."*
- 2) Dr. Wayne Grudem's Systematic Theology: *"Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world."*

B. Luke 8:26-39 is the account of Jesus delivering a man seized by demons in a Gentile region across the Sea of Galilee. The demonized man ran naked among the tombs where he lived, cried through the night, cut himself with stones, and consistently broke loose when locked in shackles. When Jesus encountered the man, the demons within him spoke and recognized who He truly was. They said: *"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"* As Jesus casts them out, He gives them permission to enter a herd of pigs, causing some 2,000 of them to rush down a hill into the lake where they drowned. Terrified swineherds flee and spread the news. People then come and find the once deranged man, clothed, calm, and sitting at the feet of Jesus. Frightened all the more, they beg Jesus and His disciples to leave. Jesus commissions the man to spread the news as to what God had done for him (and by extension what He can do for others). The delivered man tells the story of Jesus and becomes, in a manner, the first missionary to the Gentiles...

C. Here's some things to take home with you today...

- 1) There is a spiritual realm we do not see full of activity and warfare beyond our comprehension and a desperate enemy fighting to maintain every inch of control as the Kingdom of God advances in the earth...
- 2) Demons are real whether you believe in them or not and they can reap as much havoc in people's lives in our day as they did in Jesus' day...
- 3) Demons know their ultimate destiny and are fearful of it. Just as pigs were cast into the lake when the demons entered them, Jesus will one day cast Satan and his minions into the lake of fire. Our story today was a prophetic drama that I believe sent shock waves through the kingdom of darkness...
- 4) No one is beyond God's reach or beyond being delivered from any form of spiritual bondage. Perhaps you know this firsthand or someone who has been set free in a powerful way. Jesus is still in the spiritual liberation business!
- 5) If you picture hell as being a place where Satan rules and calls the shots, think again. Hell will be a place of eternal conscious punishment and separation from God. Jesus talked more about hell than anyone else in the Bible. Scriptural imagery points to hell being a place horrible beyond measure.
- 6) The New Heavens and new earth will be more awesome and blissful than we can ever imagine. Read Revelation 21:1-8...

D. Among our loved ones who have died in Christ, I believe we will meet this man whom Jesus delivered. We will be able to hug his neck without fear... But in the meantime, we have the Commission to preach and the Command to love and an enemy who will resist us every step of the way...

* Close with the lyrics to *"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"* by Martin Luther and Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 8:26-39 (NIV)

26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. **27** When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. **28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, don't torture me!" **29** For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. **30** Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. **31** And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. **32** A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and He gave them permission. **33** When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. **34** When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, **35** and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the

man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. **36** Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. **37** Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So He got into the boat and left. **38** The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, **39** "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

Quote by C.S. Lewis

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

- C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, 1941, p. 3.

Satan and Demons by Dr. Wayne Grudem

"The previous chapter (*on Angels*) leads naturally to a consideration of Satan and demons, since they are evil angels who were once like the good angels but who sinned and lost their privilege of serving God. Like angels, they are also created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence but without physical bodies. We may define demons as follows: *Demons are evil angels who sinned against God and who now continually work evil in the world.*"

The Origin of Demons: "When God created the world, He *"saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good"* (Gen. 1:31). This means that even the angelic world that God had created did not have evil angels or demons in it at that time. But by the time of Genesis 3, we find that Satan, in the form of a serpent, was tempting Eve to sin (Gen. 3:1-5). Therefore, sometime between the events of Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1, there must have been a rebellion in the angelic world with many angels turning against God and becoming evil."

- Dr. Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, Chapter 20 - *Satan & Demons*, p. 412.

James 2:19 (NIV)

19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

Revelation 21:1-8 (NIV)

1 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. **2** I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. **4** 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." **5** He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." **6** He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. **7** Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be My children. **8** But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

by Martin Luther, 1529

"Battle Hymn of the Reformation."

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Edifying Articles & Video Clips

John Piper on Casting Out A Demon

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SK07TY1uh0>

Can People Be Demon Possessed Today? - Greg Laurie

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A2Hb07vIFk>

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God" HeartSong Cedarville University

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vT6HQ1QaU4>

Erasing Hell - Francis Chan

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnrJVTSYLr8>

Satan & Demons - 3 Audio Messages by Dr. Wayne Grudem

In three talks, Wayne Grudem looks at the doctrine of Satan and demons.

<http://www.theologynetwork.org/christian-beliefs/creation-and-new-creation/satan-and-demons.htm>

Bonus Stuff

1 Peter 5:7-8 (ESV)

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. **9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Revelation 20:7-10 (NIV)

7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. **9** They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city He loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. **10** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Colossians 2:13-15 (NIV)

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14** having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. **15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Hebrews 2:14-18 (NASB)

14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. **16** For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham. **17** Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

1 John 3:7-8 (NASB)

7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; **8** the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Quote by Jonathan Edwards

"It is the sword of the Spirit that pierces [Satan] and conquers him. It is that great and strong sword with which God punishes Leviathan, that crooked serpent. It is that sharp sword that proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, with which He smites his enemies. Every text is a dart to torment the old serpent. He has felt the stinging smart thousands of times. Therefore, he is engaged against the Bible and hates every word of it."

- Jonathan Edwards, *Distinguishing Marks of a Work of the Spirit of God*.

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

"It is written." Stand upon it, and if the devil were fifty devils in one, he could not overcome you. On the other hand, if you leave "It is written," Satan knows more about reasoning than you do. He is far older, has studied mankind very thoroughly, and knows all our weak points. Therefore, the contest will be an unequal one. Do not argue with him but wave in his face the banner of God's Word. Satan cannot endure the infallible truth, for it is death to the falsehood of which he is the father."

- C.H. Spurgeon, sermon titled, "*Spiritual Warfare in a Believer's Life*."

Quote by Nigel Wright on Authoritative Words

"To use authoritative words undiscerningly runs the risk of treating the power of God as if it were something to be conjured up at will. To use such language as a matter of routine rather than one of discernment borders on the magic mentality. For instance, occasionally it is possible to hear someone binding the devil in prayer so that the meeting will go well. This is not because there has been a moment of discernment but because it is presumed that the devil must be at work unless we bind him. Authority is being used here as a fetish. If we need the reassurance that God is in control, why not simply affirm this fact and thank Him for it?"

- Nigel Wright, *The Satan Syndrome*, 1990, p. 195.

Quote by John MacArthur

"Our enemies are demonic, but the warfare against them isn't waged by commanding them, mapping their physical location, invoking magic words to subdue them, claiming authority over them, or any of the other common tactics some people usually refer to as "spiritual warfare." We are not fighting demons in a face-to-face confrontation, or by spirit-to-spirit conversation, or with voice-to-voice communication. We attack them by tearing down their fortresses of lies... What, precisely, are our weapons? The only power that will destroy such things is the power of truth... "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph. 6:17)... The simple fact is that you can't fight spiritual warfare with magic phrases and secret words. You don't overpower demons merely by shouting at them. I don't have anything to say to a demon anyway. I'm not interested in talking to them. Let the Lord do that (cf. Jude 9). Why would I even want to communicate with evil spirits? But I have a lot to say to people who have barricaded themselves in fortresses of demonic lies. I want to do everything I can to tear down those palaces of lies. And the only thing that equips me to do that well is the Word of God. Spiritual warfare is all about demolishing evil lies with the truth. Use the authority of God's Word and the power of the gospel to give people the truth. That is what will pull down the fortresses of falsehood. That is the real nature of spiritual warfare."

- John MacArthur, *The Book on Leadership*, 2004, p.p. 140-141.

Satan's Promises by Thomas Brooks

Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honor and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure and pays with pain; he promises profit and pays with loss; he promises life and pays with death.

- Thomas Brooks (1608–1680) was an [English Puritan](#) preacher and author.

Good Pig-Bad Boy

"I've learned that if you give a pig and a boy everything they want, you'll get a good pig and a bad boy."

- Jackson Brown, Jr., *Live and Learn and Pass it On*.

Quote by Robert Heinlein

"Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time, and it annoys the pig."

Quote by Michael Catt

"The devil could care less about how many sermons you listen to, as long as you have no intention of applying them to your life."