**LIFELINES IN STORMY TIMES: Deliverance from Dominating Storms**

# Luke 8:26-39

Dr. Matt Shackelford  Central Church  February 12, 2023  Social Media: #LifeLines

***Luke 8:26–39***

*Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.* ***27****When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.* ***28****When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, 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 many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.)* ***30****Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him.* ***31****And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.* ***32****Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.* ***33****Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.* ***34****When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.*

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

***36****And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.* ***37****Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.*

***38****The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying,* ***39****“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him. (ESV).*

***Jesus Can Turn a Dominated-Mess***

***into a Delivered-Missionary.***

1. Experience **Clothing** of Salvation (26-39).
2. Receive **Coaching** for Sanctification (35).
3. Obey **Commissioning** for Mobilization (35-39).

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***Quote for the Week. . .***

**by CS 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 and a magician with the same delight.”*

**C.S. Lewis, Screwtape Letters, Collins, Fontana, 1955, Preface.**

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

1. This demon-possessed man seemed to be an impossible candidate for lasting change. When we read this story, we all have “impossible people” who come to mind. However, a personal application for every Christian is that Jesus offers power to us to overcome our “stubborn sins,” which continue to harm us. How does this passage give us hope for those long-term, stronghold sins that still provide us with grief?
2. The converted demoniac was with Jesus, “sitting at the feet of Jesus.” This passage highlights the importance of learning from Jesus. Perhaps Jesus was giving him a “crash course” in the Christian life. The point is that learning how to live holy lives matters and immediately precedes our witnessing. How do you make the teaching of God’s word central to your spiritual diet?
3. The transformation wasn’t complete until the “maniac” became a “missionary.” Notice that Jesus sent this delivered man to his family and his community. Have you told your family the change Jesus has worked in your life? Who do you need to speak with to follow the path of discipleship Jesus has laid out here?