



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Power Over Demons

FEBRUARY 12, 2014

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke describes a time that Jesus healed a man with demons.

“Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs. Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me.” For He had 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 his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. The people went 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 it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well. And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with 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 He sent him away, saying, “Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you.”

So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him. And as Jesus returned, the people welcomed Him, for they had all been waiting for Him.”
(Luke 8:26-40 NASB parallel passages Mt 8:28-34; Mk 5:1-17)

Power over all. In prior passages, Luke has described Jesus' power over disease, death, wind and water. While Jesus has just crossed the Sea of Galilee and calmed a violent deadly storm, now Luke describes the powers of Jesus over demons. Demons are evil spirits, fallen angels, which are divinely created supernatural beings who are under the leadership of Satan. While Luke and Mark record only one man that spoke, Matthew records two men that were possessed with demons. The demons immediately recognized Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. The demons demand to know why Jesus is there.

A legion of demons. Jesus asked the name of the demon and the demon responded Legion. A Roman legion was 6000 men. It is understood that the men had many (6000?) demons, fallen angels, evil spirits, present in them.

Jesus allows demons to leave the man. The demon would rather be in pigs than be cast into the abyss (Jude 6). Jesus permitted the demons to enter the pigs. The pigs would rather die than have a demon in them.

A missionary and witness for Jesus. While the demons and the town's people didn't want Jesus, the man who had the demon cast out wanted to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus directed him to be a missionary and witness for Jesus in the man's town. The man was obedient and faithful by telling all of the miracles that Jesus had done to and for him. Satan and demons have no power over followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus has power over all.

For Your Consideration:

- Do demons exist today?(Eph 6:10-20)
- Can demons exist in believers? (Eph. 1:13-14)
- Can demons and the Holy Spirit coexist in the same heart?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

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