



4/17/26

On this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished we talked about how every storm in our life is an opportunity for faith to grow. God can handle those storms because He has authority over those storms. If you'd like to learn more about it, here's a link to the podcast ~ <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Luke 8:26-39

So far, I've learned that Jesus has authority to forgive ALL my sin. He has authority over the wind and the waves and all creation. And now I get to see that He has authority over the demons. This is a big deal! Spiritual warfare is everywhere... even though I can't see it. I know from 1 Peter 5:8 that Satan "is like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." He is NOT afraid of me, but he IS afraid of God... and all his demons with him tremble before Jesus, though they refuse to worship Him (James 2:19).

In this passage, I see that this event came right after the disciples freaked out and thought a windstorm was going to take their lives while Jesus slept. When Jesus calmed the storm, they were terrified and said, "Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" Just wait boys... you ain't seen nothin' yet.

Even with their little faith and fear issue, Jesus got them to the other side of the sea, as He said He would. But trouble was not over yet. Here they were, in Gentile territory, and a demon possessed man met them by the seashore. Coincidence? I think not.

This man was not calm. He seemed deranged. For the record, can I just say that Satan's plans for people are never for our good? If anyone ever offers us anything... ANYTHING... that doesn't align with God's word, we can be absolutely certain that the devil and his minions are behind it and their plan is to destroy. This man was an obvious example of that, but the demons also know how to be more subtle... as I'll even see in this passage.

The man was naked and homeless. I'm sure the people in his town avoided him like the plague. He lived in the cemetery. That's just creepy. But of course, the devil is all about darkness and death.

When the demon possessed man saw Jesus, he fell down before Him, but it wasn't the man who spoke. It was the demons! CREEPY! He cried out to Jesus with a loud voice after Jesus told the demon to leave the man, "What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."

Wow. Who's in charge??? JESUS IS IN CHARGE! Let me never be deceived. Because I belong to Jesus, the devil has no authority over me!!! Any power he uses in my life is power I voluntarily give him because I don't trust God's authority enough. But my lack of trust never changes the truth. And the devil is not afraid of me. Given the opportunity, he will whip me around like he did that man and have zero remorse when he sees me suffering. This man was being chained by the people and beaten by the demons and no one cared. He was a play toy for the devil and a nuisance to the people. BUT JESUS CARED!!! Jesus went out of His way to save that man!!! He did the same for me.

When the demon cried for Jesus to have mercy even though this demon had no mercy on the man... and in a short time, would have no mercy on Jesus when He willingly went to the cross, Jesus asked him his name. He said, "Legion," which means "a vast multitude, thousands." I can only imagine how tormented that man was. The thousands of demons tormenting the man begged Jesus not to send them to the abyss, the bottomless pit and prison for demons.

This means they understood His authority way better than I often do. They knew He COULD send them there. They could not overpower Jesus. They had to bow to His authority.

There was a large herd of pigs grazing on the hillside (something the disciples would never see in their villages because pigs were considered unclean). Legion asked Jesus to send them to the pigs. He did. They immediately entered the pigs, ran down the hillside, and drowned them in the water! They just can't help but ruin whoever they touch!

Why did Jesus allow them to possess the pigs??? I think at least one of the reasons my finite mind can come up with points to what happened next. Jesus was exposing hearts. It is only when the deception of a heart is exposed that it can be freed... just like that healed demon possessed man was. When the herdsmen saw this all take place, they didn't say, "Whoa! That man is finally free! Praise be to God!" No, they didn't care about him. They cared about the loss of income. They ran to the city AND the country... to ALL the people and told them what happened.

The people ran to see for themselves. They saw the formerly demon possessed man now sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and making sense. They didn't celebrate. They didn't welcome that man and hug him and praise God. They got scared and asked Jesus to leave. They were more afraid of the One who heals than the one who destroys.

Sometimes the devil possesses a man and lets everyone see him be destroyed. And sometimes he just distracts people and tries to make them either ignore Jesus or let fear keep them from Jesus. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, "the god of this world (the devil) has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." So sad.

Jesus did not argue with the people. He didn't try to persuade them to let Him stay. He won't force Himself on anyone. That's what the devil does.

But His presence there still produced amazing fruit! He didn't forget those people. He planted a healed man before their eyes as a constant reminder of His authority, power, and goodness. The healed man begged Jesus to let him come and follow Jesus. But Jesus said, "Return to your home... you know, that place you couldn't stay at for so long... and declare how much God has done for you." And the man did. He became a walking testimony of the grace and love and power of Jesus. I imagine that when Jesus was crucified and then raised from the dead, that man became even more bold to tell of his encounter with Jesus.

O Lord, through the example of the demons I can see why claiming belief in Jesus is not enough for salvation. The demons A... admit they're sinners for sure, and B... believe in who Jesus is... but C ~ never confess Him as Lord. Let me have a true, growing faith in You.

Let me not be like the people of the city and country who preferred to live blindly in their own lives and avoid Jesus even when they saw what He could do. Let me also not be like them in their indifference to a man who had suffered for so long and didn't care that he had been healed.

But let me be like the healed man. Truly, that is who I am. I was just as hopeless as he was, but You came and rescued me. Praise Your name. I so look forward to coming to You someday, but until You call me home, like that man who I will meet someday, I want to proclaim the amazing news of the gospel! You not only crossed a sea to come and save me. You crossed the heavens and stepped down from Your throne and saved me!!! O Lord, let me never take that for granted!!! Praise You for Your authority and mercy!!! I bow to You!