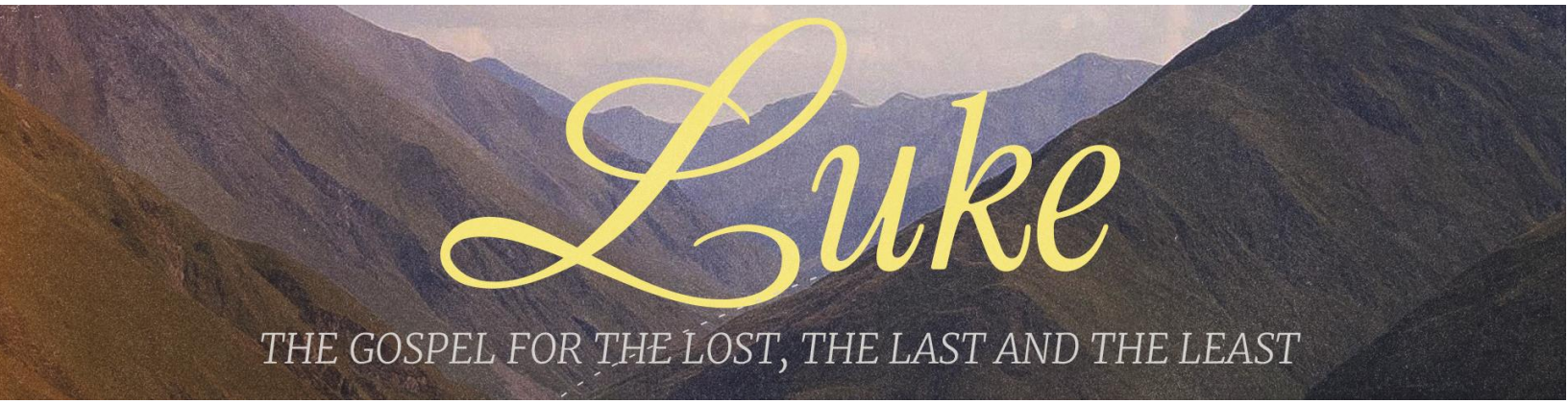


Title: The Demonic – From Enslaved to Saved
Text: Luke 8:26-39

INTRODUCTION:

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The Literary Context of Luke 8:

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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.

Big Idea: The Kingdom of God reverses curses and restores what sin destroys

Quick review from last year. Remember how we define the Kingdom of God – God's People in God's place under God's rule, encountering God's presence.

I. Understand Our Unseen Enemy – Two dangerous extremes when thinking about the demonic / our unseen spiritual enemy at work in the kingdom of this world:

Denial ----------|---------- **Obsession**

Denial	Obsession
There is no spiritual realm	A fixation on the spiritual realm
Demonic oppression / possession are laughable lies	Demonic oppression / possession are behind every sin, struggle, addiction, or problem
No fear of the demonic	Paralyzing fear of the demonic
Denies the power of the demonic	Overestimates the power of the demonic

- **The goals of our spiritual enemy:** To blind people to the gospel; to enslave people in their sin, shame, and guilt; to isolate us from others (you are alone); to bring brokenness, destruction, and death

- **The tactics of our spiritual enemy**: Accusation & lack of assurance; intrusive thoughts; increased temptation to sin; taking ground in our inner lives (spiritual footholds, strongholds, and possession)

II. See Jesus as the Reversal and Remedy
Luke's purposeful before & after contrast at the end of the passage:

Before	After
Insane	In his right mind
Isolated	With Jesus and the disciples
Out-of-control	Sitting at Jesus' feet (ready to listen / learn)
Naked	Clothed
In Chains	Unchained
In the Tombs	Sent into Town

III. Remember that We Are Saved From & Saved For

1) When it comes to "PREACHING" No Prior Experience Is Required
2) Preach Often / Tell Your Testimony Often
3) Sometimes Jesus Says "No" to Seemingly Good Things

Life Group Questions:

1) Remember to open your life group with a time to "preach" to each other (a.k.a. proclaim how God has been at work in/through you this past week).

2) Have you ever held onto something that you knew wasn't good for you simply because it was familiar or comfortable? What made it difficult to let go?

3) When you think about real change in someone's life, what do you think is usually the biggest obstacle: recognizing the problem, wanting to change, or being willing to pay the cost of changing? Why?

4) Where do you see the kingdom of darkness enslaving and destroying people today? What are some ways destructive influences promise freedom but ultimately produce bondage?

5) How can Christians take spiritual warfare seriously without denying its reality or becoming obsessed with the demonic?

6) The townspeople asked Jesus to leave after witnessing the man's restoration. What might people fear losing if they fully surrendered to Jesus? What are you afraid Jesus will change? Is there anything you continue to hold onto because it has become familiar or comfortable, even though it may be hurting you?

7) What keeps you from sharing your faith or telling others what Jesus has done for you? What is one practical step you could take this week to become more intentional about it?