**Jesus and Legion**

**The Word**

Read together Luke 8:26-39

**The Big Idea**

There is a spiritual battle taking place in this world, and the end game of both sides is clear. Satan desires to bring bondage, disintegration, and destruction, while Christ has the power to bring freedom, wholeness, and life.

**Questions for Discussion**

1. Consider the C.S. Lewis quote on the reality of spiritual warfare in the Christian life: “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 with both errors.” What do you think is a proper perspective on the spiritual world? How should we approach and acknowledge that world in our daily lives?

2. Where do you identify with the man whom Jesus healed? Can you share a story where Jesus has brought freedom and healing in your life in a specific and concrete way?

3. Where do you identify with the townspeople in the story? That is, do you relate to the fear of “surrendering it all” to Jesus because you’re unsure of the changes he might want to make in your life? How have you seen that play out in your life?

4. As you consider the spiritual battle in which we are engaged, share how the group can be praying for you in this season of life (they may be prayers of protection, deliverance, courage, etc.)?

**Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline**

I. Introduction

A. There is a spiritual battle

1. Our secular society denies this, but the Bible is clear on this from cover to cover (see especially Ephesians 6:12)

2. “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 with both errors.” –C.S. Lewis

B. The end game of each side is clear

1. Satan is active in the world to bring bondage, dis-integration and destruction

2. Jesus has come to bring freedom and wholeness to human beings

II. Consider the work of Satan in this man’s life

A. A legion of demons has over-run this man’s life

1. He has lost his dignity, he is restless and roaming, he is isolated, and he engages in self-destructive actions

2. He experiences bondage

3. He experiences disintegration (he lacks an integrated self)

B. It’s important to remember this is always Satan’s end game

1. In daily life, it’s not this clear, and often he presents us with temptations that appear to promise freedom, satisfaction, significance, security

2. In actuality, Satan is going for “an ever-increasing craving for an ever-diminishing pleasure.” –C.S. Lewis

C. We all have areas in our lives where we are especially vulnerable and where there may be strongholds of chronic sin. Originally, these sins promised freedom and satisfaction, but we end up in bondage and dis-integrated because of them (e.g. lust, greed, fear and anxiety, approval seeking, addiction, self-righteousness, etc.)

III. Consider the work of Jesus in this man’s life

A. His power is vastly superior

B. His purpose is to bring freedom and wholeness to this man

v. 35 reveals the radical transformation of this man

C. This is always Jesus’ end game

1. Sometimes in daily life his commands can seem restrictive and limiting and keeping us from satisfaction, so it’s important to remember his intent is always to bring freedom and wholeness in the deepest sense

2. See John 10:10

IV. Where do you identify with this story?

A. Identity with this man before he was healed

1. There is an area of your life where there is a stronghold of bondage, sin, addiction, temptation

2. Today is a day to cry out to Jesus and ask him to free you and heal you.

3. It’s important to tell a trusted friend so you can receive prayer and support.

B. Identify with the townspeople (v. 34-37)

1. They were afraid of Jesus’ power and the radical changes he brought (including the loss of 2000 pigs which was a huge financial loss)

2. Sometimes, we are afraid to fully surrender our lives (and those strongholds) to Jesus because we’re afraid what he might do and what changes he might make, so we try to keep control and keep him at a safe distance.

3. We have to remind ourselves that Jesus is out for our best interests.

C. Identify with the man after he is healed

1. Jesus turns him into an evangelist and a witness of his healing power

2. It’s so good for us to tell the stories of the freedom and healing Jesus has brought into our lives.