

Luke 8.22-39

When Pigs Flew

ONE MAN IN SCRIPTURE BECOMES A MICROCOSM OF WORLD -

We can see in him the quest for freedom of every person in the world

**This man Needs Economic Reform, Health Care Plan, Environment Changed**

CALMING TWO Storms – 1) SEA – Wind & Waves 2) SOUL – Desperate Man

THIRD ‘Nature’ Miracle in LUKE 1) ch 5 CATCH of Fish > SAME LAKE Here

1<sup>st</sup> Nature Miracle – Jesus was DIRECT Participant > HIS INCARNATION

GOSPEL STORY same > ALL NEED GRACE > from China or California

COMMON TESTIMONY *“once was lost, but now am found”*

1. Partial Freedom of Society 2. Promised Freedom of Satan 3. Perfect Freedom of the Savior

JESUS & Disciples crossed Sea of Galilee > into Gentile territory

Very HILLY and ROCKY Area > Mountains of GALEED Run Through it.

TOMBS on Mtns, and Cut Out of Them > Usual to Cut their Graves out of Rocks.

**PROBLEM** - verse 27 - “man who was possessed by demons”

Strange Scene - only picture of life in remote villages?

Temple Univ – Philadelphia /IVCF - Young Woman Student – Similar Behavior

1. The Partial Freedom of Society

a. Sophisticated: We Know Best

v. 22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out.

Jesus had INSPIRATION > but the Disciples Gave PERSPIRATION

He CAME ALONG – Just like He was – LAND-LUBBER, Carpenter, MYSTIC

vs. 23,24 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

The lake of Galilee is subject to sudden storms, situated as it is some 700 feet below sea level and adjacent to mountainous regions. Cold air from the heights is apt to sweep down through the precipitous gorges to the east and it can whip up the seas in a short time.

Leon Morris

We're EXHAUSTED and YOU are in LA-LA-LAND --- ASLEEP on OUR JOB  
POOR Religious PEOPLE > MIND in HEAVEN > No EARTHLY Good

Society Answer for Man of Tombs > BIND FOR HIS OWN GOOD & OTHERS  
Not a BAD thing - Government's MAIN Function is to Restrain Evil  
MAN BOUND > 1) Prevent from Hurting Self & 2) Doing Injury to Others

b. Simplistic: Not Know Enough

Disciples / SAILORS > Could NOT SAIL Out of GOD-SIZED STORM

v. 23 A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

SOCIETY had NO REAL ANSWER for MAN in his MISERY

No Permanent Solution v. 29 "Many times...he had broken his chains"

Deals only with Outward Symptoms v. 29 "he was chained hand and foot"

Power OF EVIL INTENSIFIES Strength - DO WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

Not Strong Enough v. 29 "he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard"

Mighty MAN w/ all Scientific Advances is OFTEN Powerless before CRISIS

GOV'T Makes Laws, Commands, & Ordinances > Many People IGNORE THEM  
CANNOT be Bound, Restrained, and Governed > They Despise, Break Them  
Society offers partial FREEDOM - Not Enough to set a man TOTALLY Free

21<sup>st</sup> Century Answer > PEOPLE NEED MORE EDUCATION

MODERN Man > Become BEST Educated Sinners in HISTORY of World

Saw BEST SOCIETY CAN DO – in beautiful BERN, SWITZERLAND YOUNG

PEOPLE ALL ON DRUGS – ONLY DIRTY Place - IN SWITZERLAND!!

Answer > GIVE DRUGS TO ADDICTS – OR they will Kill and Steal to get

AT BEST - THE FREEDOM SOCIETY GIVES IS ONLY PARTIAL

## 2. The Promised Freedom of Satan

Freedom 1st promised in Eden to Adam and Eve:

“your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God” Genesis 3.5

Promised in many attractive & exciting ways to the world’s people:

“Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light” 2 Corinthians 11.14

PROMISES OF EASY MONEY AND MOMENTS OF ECSTASY

People leave Academies of Atheism for Materialism of MALLS! NOT Upgrade!

WE DO NOT KNOW SPECIFIC PROMISES OF SATAN TO THIS MAN

We find him in his Depravity, but he was Made with Dignity >> Image of God

**SPECULATE WHAT HAPPENED - GRADUAL DEGENERATION??**

Destroys our Homes – v. 27 “For a long time this man had not... lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.”

EVIL ONE WANTS to rule HOMES brings hatred, strife, and evil - TV

USA > 98 % percent of all homes have a TV / only 96 % have flush toilets  
MORE SEWAGE COMES INTO HOME THAN CAN BE FLUSHED OUT

Destroys our Family and Friends – HE ONCE LIVED WITH FAMILY

v. 27 “a demon-possessed man from the town” // v. 39 "Return home ...”

DEVIL IS A POOR CHOICE FOR FRIENDSHIP - “Don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?” James 4.4

Destroys our Dignity v. 27 “For a long time this man had not worn clothes”

For CENTURIES TATOOS & BODY PIERCING > Slaves & PRISONERS

Today they’re SIGNS of being Fashionable and Socially Acceptable

In great misery and nakedness, he wandered among the graves of the dead. He was in utter wretchedness, leading a disgraceful life...deprived of every blessing, destitute of all sobriety, and entirely deprived even of reason. Cyril of Alexandria

Destroys our Self-Control - v. 29 “he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains”

“The sign of a madman: he goes out in the night, lodges among the tombs, and rends his garments, and loses what is given to him.” Jewish writings

CONFIRMS every WIFE’S SUSPICION of HUSBAND who LOSES things

Destroys our Peace and Rest v. 29 “(he) had been driven by the demon into solitary places”

Spirit of ANGER in unbelievers: Mad at God, and Christ, and the Saints  
LIKE SAUL BEFORE HIS CONVERSION

Destroys our Health – v. 29 evil spirit... Many times it had seized him

Most of Time SICKNESS INCAPACITATES > he was EMPOWERED  
 SICKNESS made ACTIVE > ACTIVITY was TURNED against HIMSELF  
 OUR OWN worst Enemies > Cutting & Wounding ourselves with our Sins  
 Destroys our Purpose for Living v. 28 “What do you want with me...”  
 Devil gave new identity - 1000’s of identities - Roman Legion 4 to 6,000  
 MAN LEGION SERVING TERRIBLE - SOUL DESTROYING - MASTER

“You gotta serve someone, it may be the devil, it may be the Lord, but you gotta  
 serve someone”  
 Bob Dylan

Jesus - “He who is not for me is against me” / NO MIDDLE GROUND

Destroys our Life Itself

Man LOST any CLAIM to STATUS > NAKED, Living in TOMBS, INHUMAN

Jesus says of Satan: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy” John 10:10

Apart from God’s grace -- Sinners will Destroy Themselves > Soul and Body

WORLD PLAYS with DEVIL & EVIL > Halloween Costumes, Cartoons, Cute!

Back from Africa: Young Nephews “Dungeons & Dragons” > Adults far from God

Our enemy the devil, goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.  
 1 Peter 5.8,9

If DEVIL Cannot DESTROY A MAN HE will DESTROY a PIG - 2,000!

HE is NOT HAPPY to SEE EVEN the CREATURES of GOD AT PEACE

Jesus calls the devil, “A murderer from the beginning” John 8.44

Unbelievers we know may look much more dignified THAN LEGION yet in  
 “trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will” 2 Timothy 2.26

BALANCED view Satan: John Stott 'Listen to BBC – Balanced, Biblical, Xianity  
God's Limitations on the Devil:

1. Cannot Know the Plan's of God v. 28 ""What do you want with me...?"

ONE GOD AND FATHER OVER ALL - NOT 2 RIVAL DEITIES

"He is the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God" 1 Timothy 1.17

2. Cannot Know Man's Plans - no evidence in Bible he can read our minds

DEVIL INVISIBLE but NOT OMNISCIENT - DOES NOT KNOW ALL

Makes GOOD GUESSES – Sees us Doing SAME, STUPID Things 1000's Years

3. Cannot Be in More than One Place at a Time

v. 33 "When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs..."

ONLY GOD is OMNIPRESENT- DEVIL is CREATURE in Space & TIME

No Idea – WHERE he is RIGHT NOW – Never Told Me!

4. Cannot Go anywhere God does Not Allow -

vs. 31,32 And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss...  
The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them (*pigs*)

People MAY NOT Believe in HELL > DEMONS Certainly DO!

MAN NAMED Legion COULD BREAK HIS CHAINS – but NOT Satan

"And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years" Revelation 20.1,2

Devil CANNOT move w/out Christ's Permission, unless God Lengthens Chain

5. Cannot Do Anything without God's Permission

vs. 31,32 And they begged him repeatedly... he gave them permission.

## What can be done for such a miserable man?

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin... You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire." John 8.34,44

### 3. The Perfect Freedom of the Savior

Jesus the Liberator - > came to destroy Satan's kingdom

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners...to release the oppressed

Luke

4.18

Jesus is OUT THERE – Furthest in Entire Gospel of Luke Jesus EVER GETS!

FIRST & ONLY Time in GENTILE Land – even WORSE – GRAVES & PIGS!

He calms the Terrible Storms in our Lives -

Luke's sequence of events: Jesus travels through the storm to reach this man

v. 24 He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.

SAME word used agnst Demons: v. 29 Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out

JESUS ENDURES ANY PERIL or FOE FOR OUR FREEDOM – EVEN CROSS

He stands against our Accuser

vs. 27,28 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"

MAN SHOUTS CURSE UPON JESUS / TRYING TO INTIMIDATE HIM

LEGION of Demons > Jesus OUTNUMBERED, but Never OVERMATCHED

EVEN WORDS OF HIS CURSE CONTAIN AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“The Most High God” God ‘s supreme government over all the world  
 He shows No Fear - Intimidating > SAW AND SMELLED HIM COMING!!  
 Jesus Did NOT RUN AWAY - He is Clearly in Control of Himself & Situation

BELIEVERS IN JESUS ARE NOT TO FEAR the ADVANCE of EVIL -  
 WE ARE PARTAKERS OF X’s POWER & AUTHORITY - HOLY SPIRIT  
 DEVIL IS LIKE A ROARING LION - BUT WE ARE TOLD TO:

“Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers  
 throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering” 1 Peter 5.9

He defeats the Devil Completely

v. 29 For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man.

He spoke command: COME OUT! - Demons CAN ONLY PLEAD MERCY

THIS IS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE FIRST PROMISE OF HIS COMING

He is the Son of Eve come to crush the head of the serpent Genesis 3.15

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3.8

He calls us by Name

v. 30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many  
 demons had gone into him.

HAVING NAME > CONTROL Identity > NEW IDENTITY – 6000 Identities

Question NOT asked for Jesus’ benefit - He knew Name and # of Demons

NOT ASKED as a Method of Exorcism : Naming Demons to Cast them Out!

Man’s Benefit - Know Terrible Condition & Great Pity and Power of Son of God

He has the power to heal completely - inside and out



Demons begged to enter pigs / ONE MASSIVE CHARGE OF POSSESSED PIGS  
 IMAGINE SIGHT - 2000 pigs doing half gainers & triple flips from pike position

THIS WAS THE INVENTION OF THE TERM “belly flop”

MAN who COULD NOT BE HELD BY CHAINS IS BOUND by LOVE OF GOD

v. 35 “they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid”

He was GREAT MIRACLE // HOW MANY HAD FLED HIS TERROR?

Never is a man in his right mind until he is converted, or in the right place until he sits by the feet of Jesus, or rightly clothed until he puts on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bishop J.C. Ryle

He is Rejected by the People of this World

v. 34 When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside,

MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIFIED BY THE SCREAMS OF DROWNING PIGS  
 PERHAPS MORE TERRIFIED AT BEING GUILTY FOR FINANCIAL LOSS  
 RAN TO EXPLAIN THE DISASTER AND VINDICATE THEIR ACTIONS

GREAT CROWD CAME FROM CITY // Matthew “the whole town came out”

20<sup>th</sup> C British Philosopher Sir Bertrand Russell “Why I am NOT a Christian”

Jesus NOT the BEST or WISEST of Men > DESTROYED Innocent PIGS

These are MOST FAMOUS PIGS in all of HISTORY!

>> Allowed DEMONS to Enter PIGS – DEMONS, Not Jesus, Ran them OFF Cliff

1 Man – Image of God > More Value in Eyes of God than MILLION Pigs

Townspople SHOULD have INVITED Him to HEAL & RESTORE Whole Town

## BUT THE WORLD HAS NO PLACE FOR JESUS

No place for HIM to be BORN -No where to LAY His Head- Only place CROSS

v. 37 Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear.

A community learns to live with demonic forces, isolating and partially controlling them...this partially successful balance of tolerance and management of the demonic among them allowed the people to keep attention off their own lives. But now the power of God for good comes to their community and it disturbs a way of life they had come to accept. Even when it is for good, power that can neither be calculated nor managed is frightening. What will God do next?? Fred Craddock

RELIGION is TOLERABLE / RADICAL Revolution by Jesus is TERRIFYING

Have we Accepted a TAME and DOMESTICATED Jesus in our Lives? Church?

PERHAPS saw Jesus as an EXORCIST or MAGICIAN who would Torment Them

Unclean Too: Maybe they'd be DRIVEN OFF the CLIFFS and DROWNED

JESUS DOES NOT STAY WHERE HE IS NOT INVITED / TRAVELS AWAY

With all the evidence before them that a great miracle had been wrought, these people proceeded to reject the greatest opportunity of their lives. Leon Morris

His call to freedom is a call to service

WHEN man was Set FREE by Satan - Free to Destroy Himself, Family, Future

NOW HE'S FOUND PERFECT FREEDOM in JESUS - Perfect PEACE & REST

You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26.2

GOES FULL CYCLE : a Man - Unwillingly Bound / NOW Willingly Submits

“In your service is perfect freedom” Book of Common Prayer

He has the power to answer prayer - 2 of 3 in chapter – really 3!

1. Demons - vs. 32 The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them (*the pigs*), and he gave them permission.

X SPEAKS AS SOLEMN JUDGE AND EXECUTOR OF THEIR JUDGMENT

2. Townspeople - v. 37 Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them >>>>>>>> HE Does

Luke MASTER CINEMATOGRAPHER > Man is GONE, See CONVERSATION Stage CLEARED of All Distractions:HIGH DRAMA: New Born Child & His King

3. Man - v. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him

OF COURSE MAN WANTED TO BE WITH THE ONE WHO SET HIM FREE  
WOULD YOU WANT to be in a VILLAGE that LOVES PIGS MORE THAN U?

STRANGE > Jesus ANSWERS PRAYERS OF DEMONS & GODLESS  
AND APPARENTLY REJECTS PRAYER OF THE NEW BORN BELIEVER  
JESUS DID NOT LET HIM CLIMB INTO BOAT AND LEAVE THE AREA  
God does NOT Leave Himself WITHOUT a WITNESS > TOWN NEEDED Hear!

v. 39 "Return home and tell how much **God has done** for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much **Jesus had done** for him.

Jesus WAS with him >>> UNDERSTANDS that JESUS IS GOD!

Best PREPARATION for FOREIGN Service is FAITHFUL Service at HOME  
Liberated Gentile takes Gospel to GENTILE Lands – Preview of Book of ACTS

LITTLE Boat on LAKE > 2 Small BUT ENORMOUS Questions asked

Most Important Questions in all of LUKE ---- In ALL of LIFE!

v. 25 *"Where is your faith?"* he asked his disciples.

ONLY Disciples WITNESS > Nature Miracle: Calming WIND & WAVES

NOT Saying: With MORE Faith there would NOT HAVE BEEN a STORM

NOT: If you had MORE FAITH then YOU Could have CALMED STORM

I am HERE – MASTER & COMMANDER – In Boat WITH YOU – TRUST ME!

The storm did not wake Jesus, but the unbelief of His disciples did. Kent Hughes

TRUST of Disciples Quickly gives way to TERROR

FEAR – Not DOUBT – is the OPPOSITE of FAITH

SAD to see how LITTLE the DISCIPLES Faith has GROWN thus FAR

Jesus ORDAINED the STORM And RODE Through it WITH THEM!

Sometimes being in CENTER of God's Will is being in CENTER of the Storm!

Dear God, let me soar in the face of the wind: up...through the cold and storm with wings to endure. Let the silver rain wash all the dust from my wings. Let me soar as He soars...let it lift me...Let it buffet and drive me, but, God, let it lift Ruth Graham

v. 25 In fear and amazement they asked one another, *"Who is this?"* He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

DEMONS have MORE ORTHODOX Christology than DISCIPLES

Man who WAS Legion had Right ANSWERS to Question DISCIPLES ASKED

They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew

calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Psalm 107.25-31  
 Luke > PERSUASIVE ESSAY > CONVINCING Reader about JESUS

Helpless Babe – Obedient Child – Wise Teacher – Bold Prophet – Miracle Worker  
 Lord of Sky and Seas – Liberates those in Bondage – KING, SAVIOR, GOD

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them. Psalm 89.8,9

Calling Jesus GREAT TEACHER – Not even HALF of His FULL IDENTITY  
 Luke's GRADUAL Method > People need Time to PROCESS and REPENT

We like man from TOMBS – Need some TIME to SIT at Jesus' Feet & Learn

EVERY Believer has STORY to Tell: All our Stories are DIFFERENT, but SAME  
 Story of GOD'S Forgiveness – All Sins – Great & Small – Hidden or Hanging Out  
 Story of CROSS – OUR Cross and HIS Cross – OUR Sins, HIS Suffering  
 HIS Payment for OUR Pardon – HIS Gore for OUR Glory – HIS Death, OUR Life

v. 39 "Return home and tell how much God has done for you."

HOW MUCH HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU??

When was LAST TIME you TOLD Anyone?

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## Luke 8.22-39

22. One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. 23. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. 24. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." 26. They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. 27. When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. 28. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" 29. For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. 30. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. 31. And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. 32. A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. 33. When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34. When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, 35. and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 36. Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. 37. Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. 38. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39. "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.