

Journey With Jesus #207

Jesus Vs. Legion

Adapted from a John Dobbs sermon

<https://www.sermoncentral.com/sermons/jesus-vs-legion-john-dobbs-sermon-on-victory-202558>

In the battle of Jesus Vs. Legion,
Jesus always wins.

So are we begging him to leave or begging him
to stay?

Luke 8 introduces one of the most frightening
sights the disciples had ever seen.



Luke 8:26 NIV 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 impure 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.



Mark 5:5 NIV Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

30 Jesus asked him, **"What is your name?"** "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. **31** And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.



Each legion was made up, ordinarily, of 6,000 men.? (ISBE) 6,000 demons controlled Him. He dwelt among tombs - far from family/friends. He was in a state of wretchedness, Naked—homeless—wandering abroad in a state of pain. He was dangerous to others. They had bound him with chains but they could not restrain him. Still, they were no match for the power of Jesus. The demons believed Jesus would torture them or send them into the Abyss, so they begged him...



32 A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, 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.



Mark 5:20 NIV So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

I wish we knew more about this man, could hear his testimony ... because he faced an impossible enemy but found hope and health in Jesus. This chapter speaks to the authority and power of Jesus for the broken and hurting those facing Legion.



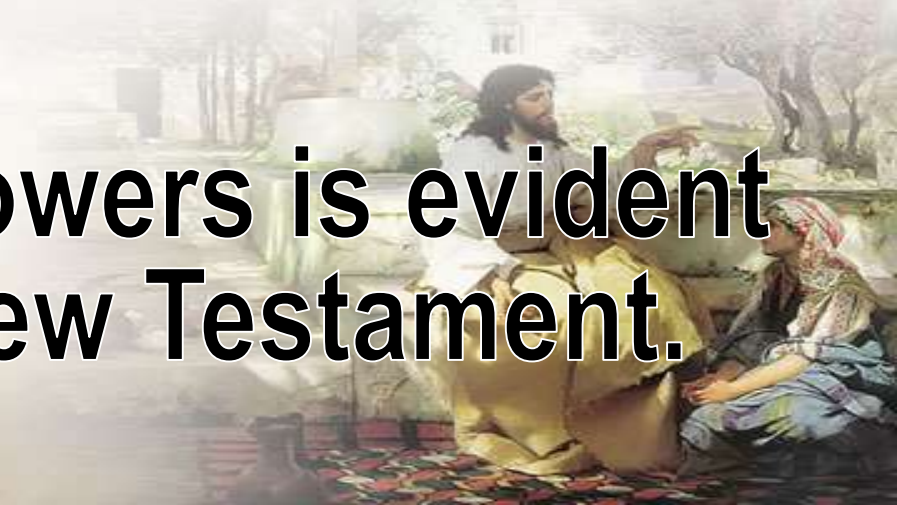
Everyone Faces Legion

A Legion of Demons.

Parable of the Sower

Luke 8:12 NIV Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

The work of Satan and his followers is evident in a very visible way in the New Testament.



Satan is Powerful

Ephesians 6:12 NIV For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.



Satan is a Liar

John 8:44 NIV You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.



Satan is Deceitful

2 Corinthians 11:14 NIV And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

We Must be Alert

1 Peter 5:8 NIV Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.




The Enemy is beyond our power and can cause great destruction in our lives.

Have you faced a problem with 6,000 faces?
More power than you are able to deal with?
Such a problem it overwhelms you in every direction?

Even great men and women of God ... heroes of the Bible ... faced times of being overwhelmed.

Psalms 42:3 NIV My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"



When our problems are Legion...

- They overwhelm us at every turn
 - They seem insurmountable
- They appeal to our sense of helplessness
- They can lead us to feel acute loneliness.
- Sometimes we do not act like ourselves and can fall into destructive habits and troubles.



Jesus Is the Victor in Your Battles with Legion

When Legion is winning,
we need a Champion to fight for us!

POWERFUL: He is more powerful than Legion.
The demons beg him not to harm them; then
beg to be sent into the pigs.. They have faith
that Jesus is more powerful. They have faith
that Jesus is able to send them to another
place. They know He is the Son of God!



James 2:19 NIV You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

**Jesus is more powerful
than your greatest problems!**

**When faced with Legion,
turn to the Powerful Jesus!**



Compassionate

Jesus Seeks Out Those Who Need Him. He purposefully wanders deep into Gentile territory to encounter man and defeat Legion.

“...There is no person that is God-forsaken. Unclean. Outcast. Abandoned. Unpopular. Incarcerated. Unbeliever. No one is left out.”

(David Lose)

Jesus' compassion extends to all...
including you.



Missional

Jesus Sends Us Out to Encounter Legion.
Jesus sent this man who had been reclaimed to
his own people to share with them the POWER
& LOVE of Jesus!

*We too have been healed by God in Christ.
We too have been freed from sin and liberated
from fear ... we too have been sent out into the
world to tell our story of God's love and
forgiveness... ”*
(Delmer Chilton)



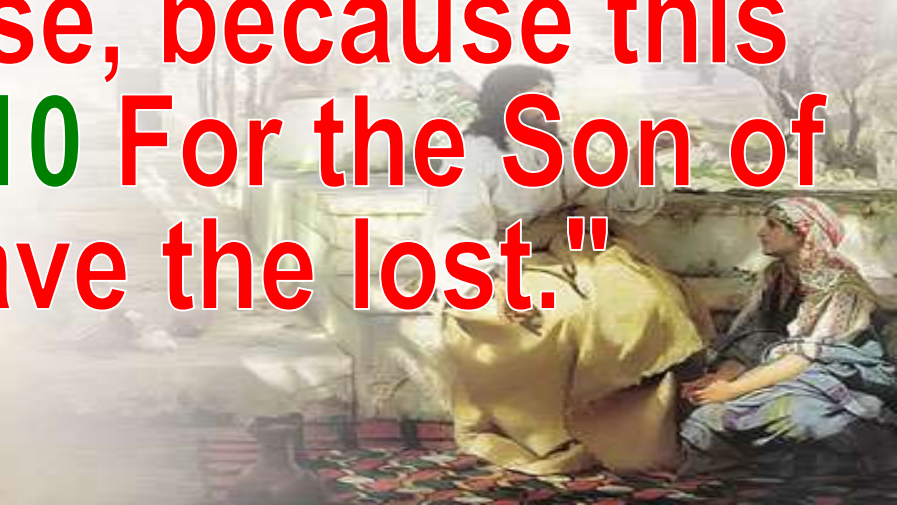
Eternal

Legion had a limited life-span ... ran off the cliff
in the pigs ... our life is eternal!

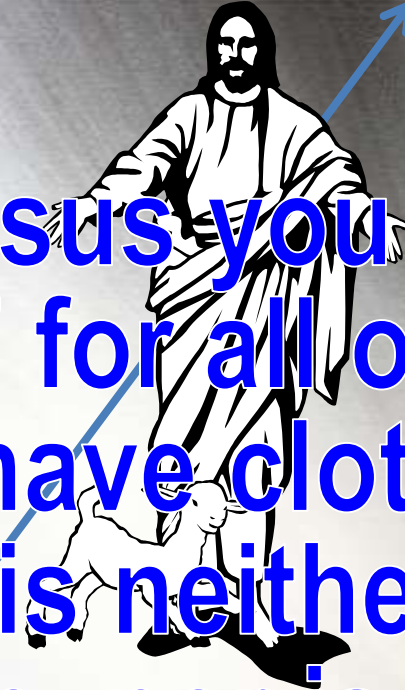
Jesus Wins Beyond This Life.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost!

Luke 19:9 NIV Jesus said to him, "Today
salvation has come to this house, because this
man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of
Man came to seek and to save the lost."



Galatians 3:26 NIV So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.



Conclusion

**In the battle of Jesus Vs. Legion,
Jesus Always Wins!**

**The people of the town were fearful,
even in the face of the healed demoniac!
They begged Jesus to leave.**

**Who is begging Jesus to leave their life today?
Or would you beg Him to stay?**



Extra Clippings

“That evil exists is a reality and mystery. Certainly events of history such as the Holocaust and lynchings remind us that evil is palpable. The unending reports of mass shootings in schools and at malls as well as bombs left on city streets are grim reminders that we have not eradicated evil or its causes.”



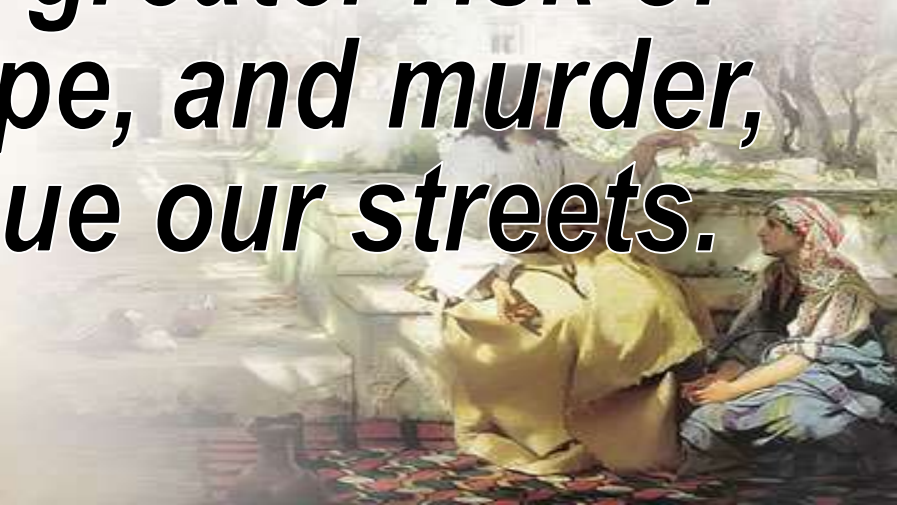
***Admitting the there are powers in this world and
in our lifetime that we cannot control or conquer
saves us from trivializing their effects.
Only Jesus Christ has the power to conquer the
demons.”***

**Edna Jacobs Banes, Feasting On The Gospels,
Luke, Vol. 1**



“He is not unlike homeless people today, who wander the urban wastelands of bridge abutments and alleys. Many of them are mental ill, unable to live a normal life with a job, family, home, or basic necessities.

Homeless people are at much greater risk of being victimized by assault, rape, and murder, the demonic legions that plague our streets.



The homeless are “unclean: and unwelcome in most communities, inhabiting situations from which few are able to return to ordinary life. Every city has its Gerasenes. the Gerasenes are our neighbors....

**Elaine A. Heath, Feasting On The Word, Year C Vol 3
<http://www.davidlose.net/>**



The background of the image is a dark, almost black, space filled with numerous glowing spheres. The spheres vary in size and are primarily in shades of purple, blue, and cyan. Some spheres are in sharp focus, while others are blurred, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is reminiscent of a starry night sky or a cluster of distant galaxies.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

Jesus died on the cross for our sins.



He was buried and rose on the third day.



When He did this He solved 2 problems we all have.

He solved our sin problem because He nailed our sins to the cross; &



He solved our grave problem when He rose from the dead because it proved we could also rise from the dead.



Jesus said, if we want to take advantage
of all this we must . . .

FOLLOW HIM; &

BE BORN AGAIN.





ISN'T THAT GREAT NEWS?

**WHO ARE YOU GOING TO SHARE
THE GOOD NEWS WITH TODAY?**