

Part 4

An Ambassador who was Possessed

Luke 8:26-39

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?"

31 "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. 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.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

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Message notes:

This man is _____ to the religious.

As an ambassador you have delegated authority to use the name of _____.

Everybody that comes to Jesus experiences this 5 fold change:

1. The demon's are gone: his eyes are opened, and he is _____.
2. He is sitting at Jesus' feet: he's been reconciled and there is _____.
3. He is _____: there's newness and change.
4. He is in his _____: he has a new world view.

They don't want Jesus to be around because they don't want to _____.

5. He became an _____.

As an ambassador, don't _____ to others.

The power of your story isn't how great you are. The power of your story is God's _____ in your life.

Steps to Becoming an Ambassador:

1. Commit to pray for someone who is "unredeemable" or "least likely" to com to Christ.
2. Write a letter to someone who doesn't know about your faith.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Jamie spoke about the fivefold change that occurs when someone comes to Jesus. What are the five changes that occur when someone comes to Jesus, and how have you experienced these changes in your own life?
2. Pastor Jamie spoke about sharing your story of change with your children, parents, or friends. Have you shared about your faith with those closest to you? What was their response?
3. The message discussed the reaction of the townspeople who asked Jesus to leave after witnessing the deliverance of the demon-possessed man. Why do you think the townspeople were afraid and asked Jesus to leave? How do people today react similarly when confronted with the power of Jesus?
4. The message challenged us to pray for those they consider "least likely" to come to Christ. Who in your life have you considered "least likely" to come to Christ, and how can you begin to pray for and reach out to them?
5. This series calls on us to be ambassadors for the King, sharing the message of reconciliation. How have you begun to actively live out this role in your daily life?

Ministry Time:

Pastor Jamie discussed how Jesus cares for us, even when we are at our most broken. Is anyone feeling disconnected from God because of past issues that have left you feeling guilt, shame, or abandonment?

The message highlighted the spiritual battle that Jesus faced when crossing the lake to reach the demon-possessed man. Has anyone been feeling like they are currently fighting a deeper spiritual battle in your life that we could be pray for?