

1. We will continue this morning with our series about spiritual battle.
2. We are looking at a story in the book of **Luke chapter 8**.
3. Turn there in your bible if you would. It is the story of Jesus arrival at a region called the Gerasenes, or some translations say Gadarenes.
4. Upon arriving there by boat and stepping out on the shore, Jesus is met by a man who is demon possessed.
5. The bible says that for a long time this man had worn no clothes. He was naked, and that he didn't live in a house, but rather lived right outside the town in the tombs.
6. Jesus, upon seeing the man, immediately realizes that he is demon possessed, and begins commanding the demon to come out of the man.
7. In verse 29 we find that this man had been demon possessed for some length of time, and that his situation had caused quite a stir in the town where he was from.
8. He was out of control. So out of control that the people of the town, many different times, had put him under guard, bound him with chains, hand and foot, in an attempt to keep him under control. But it hadn't worked.
9. Each time the man, when overtaken by the demon, would break the chains and run off again, still bound by this demon.
10. In verse 30 Jesus asks the demon what his name is, and the demons says my name is Legion, for we are many.
11. Now in military terms, a legion of soldiers was a group of 1,000 men. So the indication is that this man was possessed not by one demon, but thousands of demons.
12. That would seem to be confirmed by the fact that when Jesus cast the demons out of him, the demons entered a herd of swine or pigs that numbered about 2,000, and as a result of being overtaken by these demons, the pigs run off a cliff, fall into the lake and they drown.
13. The herdsman caring for the pigs ran into town to tell what had happened, and a large number of people go out to where Jesus and the man are, and when they get there, they see the man sitting at the feet of Jesus, very calmly, in his right mind, and wearing clothes.

14. On the one hand they are astonished, but on the other hand they are afraid, and so all the people ask Jesus to leave their region and go somewhere else. And so Jesus does what they ask.
15. Our focus last week was on the truth that the people of this region tried to solve a spiritual problem with a physical solution.
16. What was going on inside this man, and as a result was wreaking havoc on their town was a spiritual issue, he was demon possessed.
17. But they tried to solve the issue with physical means. With guards, chains, and physical control.
18. And the result of their trying to solve a spiritual problem with physical means was continued chaos.
19. **Almost nothing will cause more heartache, headache, heart break and pain as when we try and solve a spiritual problem with a physical solution.**
20. What do we mean by that?
21. We all face struggles and battles. Not only from outside of us but from inside us.
22. And the temptation is to try and work the thing out on our own first, until we are so exhausted and worn out, that finally, hopefully, maybe, we seek the Lord's help, and we search for spiritual solutions.
23. And when we finally get around to genuinely seeking after God and putting him first in that situation, we find the hope and the help that we need, but not before we have paid a heavy spiritual, emotional, physical, financial, or relational price.
24. How many are with me this morning? So last time I gave you a tool to distinguish when something is spiritual or physical.
25. To identify whether our starting place should be in the spiritual realm, aka seeking the Lord and his divine intervention, or in the physical realm by taking care of it ourselves.
26. **ALL problems, have at their root spiritual issues.**
27. In other words. Every single problem, challenge, heartache, difficulty, misunderstanding, whatever else you want to call it, no matter what the thing is that you are facing, that thing is rooted in the spiritual

realm, so therefore must be solved spiritually before it can ever be solved physically.

28. **Philippians 4:6-7** Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
29. The word anything, do not be anxious about anything, and the word every, indicate that there is not one single solitary issue in your life that God doesn't want you to bring to him first.
30. Being anxious about something is normally a sign that we are trying to solve that thing in our own strength. But the Lord says, I don't want you solving anything in your own strength. I want you to bring everything to me first.
31. If I don't view every situation as a spiritual situation, and if I don't take it to the Lord for a spiritual solution the moment, I become aware of the problem, then what happens is I live what I will call a **Hybrid Christianity**.
32. A hybrid car is a vehicle that runs partially on gas, and partially on electricity stored in batteries. It is a vehicle that is operating with two power sources.
33. Technology has made this work pretty efficiently for vehicles. But let me tell you, the same cannot be said about our spiritual lives.
34. If we don't see every problem as a spiritual problem and as a result seek a spiritual solution, from an extraordinary God, then we are Christians trying to live with two power sources.
35. Part of the time we depend on God, and part of the time we depend on ourselves, or someone else, or something else as our source of hope.
36. And the result of trying to live a life with two power sources is that we compartmentalize our lives, and we say, well God, you can be God over this part of my life, but I'll be in control over this part over here.
37. And we all know that doesn't work. It may work for a while. But it won't work for long.
38. **We can't live the victorious life God intends us to have on part-time power;** we need full-time power that only comes through Him.

39. Today we will move into the next reason why we must rely on the power and strength of the Lord, rather than our own, when doing spiritual battle.

**TEXT:** **Luke 8:27-29** 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.

**TITLE:** **Know your enemy.**

#### **INTRO:**

1. Let's take these three verses and put them in chronological order.
2. In verse 27 Jesus steps out on shore and he is met by a demon possessed man from the town.
3. Actually, what happens next is found in verse 29. As soon as Jesus laid eyes on this man, he immediately realized the man was demon possessed and commanded the demon to come out of him.
4. What happens next is found in verse 28. Rather than doing what Jesus said, the demons proceed to have a conversation with Jesus.
5. First of all the demons make a statement. **Luke 8:28** 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?"
6. The study notes in the Amplified bible give some very interesting insight into this statement, what do you want with me Jesus.
7. This was really an insult. The demons are saying to Jesus, we're not obligated to listen to you. What business do we have together.
8. We all know that was a bold-faced lie.
9. It also meant; I don't want to deal with you. I don't have time to mess with you.
10. And it is also a protest by the demons which means, why are you bothering us. We haven't bothered you. Which again is a lie.
11. And then after the insults, the demons proceed to bargain with

Jesus.

12. Luke 8:28 "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!"
13. The torture the demons were referring to was the lake of fire talked about in Revelation 19:20 But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.
14. The demons were basically acknowledging that they know Jesus has the power to end them once and for all and send them immediately to eternal punishment and torment.
15. So, let's back up and summarize all the ways the enemy responded to Jesus's command to come out.
16. The demons were insulting. I don't have to listen to you. I don't have time for you. I haven't hurt you, so you don't have any right to hurt me.
17. They also acknowledged very clearly that they knew exactly who he was. They knew that he was Jesus the Christ or messiah, and that he was the son of God.
18. And finally, they think if they can bargain with Jesus that maybe he won't carry out all his plans for them.
19. So, here is Jesus. He is God in the flesh. He himself has all power and all wisdom and all understanding.
20. Jesus, right from the beginning recognized this as a spiritual issue and he commanded a spiritual solution. The release of this man.
21. Jesus, unlike us who are prone to making mistakes, is handling this situation perfectly.
22. And yet the enemy is not giving Jesus any respect. The enemy is not cooperating. The enemy get's nasty and defiant and rebellious.
23. So, that leads us to our second reason why it is imperative that we see every situation as a spiritual situation and trust in God first before we ever try and solve that thing in the physical.
24. Even if we don't see everything as spiritual battle, the enemy still does. And he will put up a spiritual fight every time.
25. And if that's how the enemy fights with Jesus, imagine his tactics and his nastiness toward you and me?

26. Actually, you don't have to imagine. You fight with a spiritual enemy every single day. Every day is a battle and a struggle.
27. And neither do we have to imagine what it looks like in the physical when we half-heartedly trust in the Lord because of another story in the book of Acts.
28. Acts 19:11-16 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them. 13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.
29. God is using Paul to do amazing miracles in the city of Ephesus. Some of those miracles included driving out evil spirits, just like Jesus did in Luke 8.
30. And 7 brothers whose father's name was Sceva, saw Paul casting out demons and they thought, I think we can do that too.
31. I don't know if they wanted the attention, or if they thought it would be financially advantageous to cast out demons, but what I do know is that these seven brothers were not living a life in which Jesus lived inside of them and had become their Lord and king.
32. They were attempting to do spiritual battle in their flesh. In the physical. Without any real help from the Lord.
33. Every time they encountered a demon possessed person; they would speak to the demon like this.
34. Acts 19:13 "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."
35. They didn't say, in the name of Jesus who lives inside of me and whose power and strength and wisdom I rely on, come out.
36. No. They just simply mentioned the name of Jesus because they had heard Paul mention the name of Jesus.
37. They were trying to do spiritual battle in their physical strength alone.
38. And I would imagine that because there was seven of them, they felt

secure that all together their combined strength was more than enough to drive out any demon.

39. But they found out the hard way that it was not.
40. One day, they encountered a man who was possessed by one demon. Like all the other times they gave their practiced command.
41. "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out."
42. Only this time they got more than they bargained for.
43. Verse 15 says that the demon, through the voice of the man, asked a very profound question. I know who Jesus is, and I know who Paul is, but who are you.
44. What happened? The demon exposed their lack of power. The demon exposed their lack of dependence upon the Lord. The demon exposed the fact that they were trying to tackle a spiritual issue in their own strength.
45. Verse 16 says that this one man, possessed by this one demon, jumped on all seven of them at the same time.
46. He overpowered all seven of them. And he gave them such a beating that in the mele their cloths were torn off and they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.
47. Are you seeing the difference here from the story in the book of Luke? In Luke it was the demon possessed man who was naked.
48. But in the book of acts it was these seven men who were trying to do spiritual battle in their own strength who were naked.
49. What a visual image of what happens in our lives when we attempt to live this hybrid Christianity that we have been talking about.
50. Partially trusting in the Lord, and partially trusting in our own strength and wisdom and provision.
51. Just like those seven brothers we wind up overpowered, beaten, bruised, bleeding and exposed.

Conclusion: Look at Teresa.

**1. The point of this message is not perfect Christianity.**

2. I'm not suggesting that we have to be perfect to be spiritually strong. If

that were the case, then all of us would be lost.

3. The point is this. Even Jesus in his perfect power and perfect strength and perfect wisdom was challenged.
4. And if he is challenged, then how much more will we be challenged in this spiritual battle that we are in?
5. And because of that, we can't afford to try and live this life partially dependent upon, and partially trusting in, and partially devoted to, and partially relying on the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. There must be a transformation inside of us in which every part of our being; mind, spirit, soul, and body understands that without the help of the Lord Jesus Christ I can't even get up out of bed in the morning. Much less engage in effective and victorious spiritual battle.
7. There have been so many songs written over the centuries about this very truth.
8. One of my favorites is titled, **I can't even walk (without you holding my hand).**

I thought number one would surely be me  
 I thought I could be what I wanted to be  
 I thought I could build on life's sinking sand  
 But now I can't even walk without you holding my hand

I thought I could do a lot on my own  
 I thought I could make it all day long  
 I thought of myself as a mighty big man  
 But Lord I can't even walk without you holding my hand

Oh Lord, I can't even walk without you holding my hand  
 The mountains too high and the valleys too wide  
 Down on my knees that's where I learned to stand  
 Oh Lord, I can't even walk without you holding my hand

I think I'll make Jesus my all and all  
 And if I'm in trouble on his name I'll call  
 If I didn't trust him I'd be less of a man  
 'Cause Lord I can't even walk without you holding my hand

9. Salvation call.
10. Corporately confess to the Lord that we are nothing without him.
11. Ask him to mold us and shape us and to instill in us a new way of living. A life that trusts completely in Jesus.