

1. We will continue this morning with our study of Jesus' healing of a demon possessed man in **Luke chapter 8**.
2. In week one we learned that every problem is a spiritual problem that needs a spiritual solution.
3. The man was demon possessed, but rather than dealing with the spiritual issue, the people of the region used physical means, chains, and shackles, to try and subdue the man.
4. Jesus immediately recognized the man was demon possessed and set him free.
5. **Almost nothing will cause us more heartache as when we try and solve a spiritual problem with a physical solution. And everything is a spiritual problem.**
6. In week two we discovered that Satan fights in the spiritual realm. The demons had no respect for Jesus, and the enemy has no respect for us.
7. Satan isn't impressed with our power, so therefore we must rely on the Lord's power in each and every situation of life.
8. Last week we discovered that even when we devote our lives to seeking and trusting the Lord first, that not everyone will be pleased.
9. In fact, some may even try and stand in our way to prevent our devotion to the Lord.
10. Upon setting the demon possessed man free, the demons enter into a herd of pigs who run off a cliff and are drown.
11. The people of the region, because of the fear of more loss, asked Jesus to leave them without even saying thank you.
12. **And what did Jesus do? Luke 8:37** 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.
13. The people of the region were not happy with what Jesus had done or how he had done it.
14. But notice that Jesus doesn't debate or argue or defend himself. He simply leaves.
15. What Jesus doesn't do is he doesn't take responsibility for their happiness. His mission was not to make them happy; his mission was

to seek and save those who were lost, which would make his father happy.

16. This was the application we made to our own lives. As we seek to serve and follow the Lord, we need to keep in mind that not everyone will be pleased with our devotion and the direction of our lives.
17. But here's the thing. **You and I are not responsible for pleasing everyone, we are only responsible for pleasing the Lord.** We are to live before an audience of one.
18. For those of us who are people pleasers, that's a hard message to accept.
19. But we see from Jesus' example that this is a true statement.
20. Jesus loved these people. He died for them on the cross.
21. But when they asked him to leave, he left. His goal was not pleasing them, his goal was pleasing his father.
22. The apostle Paul said it this way. **Galatians 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.**
23. If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.
24. Why could Paul, or us for that matter, not be a people pleaser and a God pleaser at the same time?
25. Because it is impossible to please everyone and God simultaneously.
26. And so because of that truth, we are told in the Word that we have to make a choice. We have to choose to please the Lord first and foremost. God will not be second place to anyone.
27. Now. Just because I know that to be the truth, doesn't mean it is easy for me to live out this truth.
28. In fact, many of us struggle with living this truth out on a daily basis.
29. Because we have an enemy that doesn't want us to be fully devoted to pleasing the Lord, he will do everything in his power to convince us that pleasing people is as much, if not more important than pleasing God.
30. We may not admit that pleasing people is more important than pleasing God, but many of us live like that at times.

31. So, because I know that a large percentage of us struggle to win this battle, I am going to spend one more day on this subject of not being a people pleaser.
32. We are going to look at another passage of scripture this morning, and then next week we will finish up the story in Luke chapter 8.

**TEXT:** **Proverbs 14:10** Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.

**TITLE:** **Responsibility.**

**INTRO:**

1. let's talk today about responsibility. Specifically the question. Is one person responsible for another person's happiness or unhappiness?
2. I intentionally made the statement earlier that Jesus didn't take responsibility for the happiness of the people of the Garasenes.
3. They were unhappy. They asked him to leave. And so he left.
4. Part of the reason why Jesus didn't take responsibility for their happiness or unhappiness is because of a truth found in the book of Proverbs.
5. For context, the writer of the book of Proverbs is king Solomon of the Old Testament.
6. Solomon was considered the wisest man to ever live on planet earth.
7. What we have in the book of Proverbs are essentially a collection of what I call truth bombs.
8. Almost every verse contains a single truth, that may or may not relate to the verses before or after.
9. And that's what have here in Proverbs 14:10.
10. Proverbs 14:10 is a single thought of truth that Solomon found to be universal for all mankind.
11. Meaning, this truth applies to all of us. And so here is the truth that Solomon learned.
12. **Proverbs 14:10** Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.
13. There are two emotions mentioned here. Bitterness and joy.

14. Solomon states that bitterness and joy are bound up or contained in the heart of a person.
15. In other words, when you and I experience bitterness, or joy, or any other emotion, the place where we carry those emotions is inside our heart.
16. Now. Those emotions may be visibly seen in our physical bodies. A smile. A tear. A distressed look on our face.
17. But outside of our hearts is not where we carry those emotions. We carry them inside our hearts.
18. How many are still with me?
19. So because those emotions are carried inside our hearts, Solomon points out that only we can fully know the depth of our own emotions.
20. Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy.
21. Now. Those closest to us may know some of the emotions we are dealing with, but only one human being knows the fullness of the bitterness and the joys that we experience, and that human being is us alone.
22. Thankfully, we serve an amazing God who understands completely, every emotion we ever have or ever will experience.
23. **Hebrews 4:15-16** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
24. The word weakness in verse 15 covers every type of weakness we have in our lives.
25. It covers physical weakness, mental weakness, spiritual weakness, and emotional weakness.
26. We have a high priest, Jesus, who understands our every weakness, because like us he was tempted in every area of weakness just like we are.
27. So Jesus understands every emotion. But no human being outside of ourselves understands our every emotion or weakness.
28. So let's apply that truth to our lives.

29. I am going to use a couple of different words. These are my words, I don't know of any translation of the bible that uses them here in this context, so keep that in mind.
30. Happiness and unhappiness. **Only we, in our hearts, are fully able to carry our happiness or unhappiness.**
31. I can't fully carry yours, and you can't fully carry mine.
32. Said another way. Only I have authority over my heart and the emotions I carry in it.
33. Only you have authority over your heart and the emotions you carry in it.
34. I don't have authority over your heart and the emotions in it, and you don't have authority over my heart and the emotions in it.
35. And so if that is the truth, then when we talk about being a people pleaser, we have a contradiction and a conflict.
36. The definition of a **people pleaser: someone who takes responsibility for the happiness or unhappiness of someone else.**
37. I want them to be happy with me, so I am going to do or say things that I hope will make them happy, with me.
38. Or, I am going to avoid doing or saying things that I think will make them unhappy with me.
39. Just for the sake of understanding how wide spread of a struggle this is.
40. How many by a show of hands has ever struggled with doing or not doing something, out of fear of the person being unhappy with you?
41. Let me say it again. A people pleaser is a person who takes responsibility for the happiness or unhappiness of another.
42. So, the contradiction is this. As a people pleaser, I am attempting to take responsibility for the happiness of another person, but I don't have authority over their heart where they carry that happiness. (pause)
43. Let's look back at Luke chapter 8.
44. Jesus does this amazing miracle. He sets this demon possessed man free from thousands of demons.
45. He solves for this region one of their most pressing problems.

46. And yet when they ask him to leave. Jesus simple leaves without putting up a defense.
47. What did Jesus do. Jesus refused to take responsibility for their happiness, because he would not exercise authority over their heart where the happiness was carried.
48. It is the same way that Jesus relates to all of us. Jesus Christ, because of his death and resurrection, because he paid the price for our sins, could demand that we give him our heart.
49. He could demand that we hand over that authority. But he does not. Instead he gives us a choice.
50. He asks us for our whole heart, but he does not take it by force.
51. His desire is that we willingly give him authority over our heart.
52. Why? Why in the world would Jesus give us the choice if he could just make us?
53. **Because love isn't love if I don't have a choice.** If I am forced to love Jesus then that's not love, that's an obligation.
54. If Jesus exercises authority over my heart and demands that I give it to him, then I become his slave.
55. And the truth is, Jesus doesn't want to have a slave, master relationship with us. He wants to have a love relationship with us.
56. **John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.**
57. Satan's desire is that we never move past relating to God as a slave, because if all we are is God's slave, then we can't exercise the authority God gives us.
58. But Jesus says, I don't want servants or slaves, I want friends who share in the goodness of God.
59. God doesn't want you and I to be slaves, but when we attempt to be God pleasers and people pleasers, that's exactly what we become.
60. Being a people pleaser is to be a slave. Why?
61. Let's go back to those two words. Authority and responsibility.
62. Only you have authority over your heart and only I have authority over my heart.

63. So trying to take responsibility over something I don't have authority over (the happiness of someone else) makes me a slave.
64. I don't know who is credited with saying this. I didn't say it first, but it is a powerful statement.
65. **Responsibility without authority is slavery.** (repeat)
66. You may not have thought about slavery recently, but according to a 2018 survey published by the Walk Free Foundation, there are an estimated 40.3 million slaves in 167 countries all over the world.
67. That means there are more slaves in the world than at any other time in history.
68. A slave is given a job to do. A responsibility, but they are given no authority to get the job done.
69. Trying to take responsibility over some else's happiness, when I have no authority over their happiness, makes me a slave to their happiness.

#### Conclusion:

1. Sometimes the other person demands that we put on that yoke of slavery.
2. At other times we voluntarily take on that yoke of slavery ourselves, but either way it is slavery.
3. I am painfully aware that I have had just a few moments of time in your life, when in fact being a people pleaser might be a lifelong part of who you are.
4. So the struggle is where do I leave you.
5. Here is where I want to leave you this morning.
6. Jesus' desires to relate to you as a loving friend, not a slave. But he won't demand your heart. You have to give it freely.
7. Are you listening today and as you think about it, your relationship with the Lord feels more like slavery than friendship?
8. The answer is to freely give your heart to the Lord.
9. Salvation call.
10. Ask all believers to freely give their heart to the Lord.
11. Are you struggling with being a people pleaser?
12. Being a God pleaser rather than a people pleaser is to be like Jesus.

**13.** Lord Jesus, help that truth to get lodged down deep in my heart, to the point that it starts to change who I am.