

1. This morning we will finish a series we started a few weeks ago about Spiritual Battle.
2. We have been following along with the story of Jesus healing of a man who was possessed by a great number of demons.
3. The story is found in **Luke chapter 8**, and begins with verse 26.
4. Jesus and the disciples arrive by boat at a place called the Gerasenes, and immediately upon getting out of the boat, Jesus is met by a man who is demon possessed.
5. He had been demon possessed for a very long time. He ran around without any clothes on, and rather than living in a house among other people he lived in a tomb.
6. The people of the region had tried chaining him hand and foot and putting him under guard, but nothing had helped.
7. Jesus immediately begins to command the demons to come out of the man, but the demons resist and put up a fight.
8. After a short conversation, the demons finally obey Jesus and they enter into a large herd of pigs who immediately run off a cliff and are drown in the lake.
9. The people caring for the sheep run into town and tell everyone what has happened. They all arrive to where the miracle has occurred and they see the man sitting, clothed, and in his right mind.
10. But the people are scared of more loss, so they ask Jesus to leave, and he does without so much as a word.
11. Just to review, here are the truths we have applied to our lives so far.
12. **The people of the region tried to solve a spiritual problem with a physical solution**, and the result was continued struggle.
13. Every situation is a spiritual situation, and so therefore we must develop the pattern of taking everything to the lord first, not trying to solve things on our own first.
14. Secondly, **the enemy knows that this battle is spiritual.** And even though the demons knew who Jesus was and his power, they still resisted.

15. You and I cannot win the battle in our own strength. Satan knows that and he will expose our weakness if we depend on ourselves.
16. We must depend on the Lord.
17. Thirdly, Jesus didn't protest when they asked him to leave. Partly because he was unwilling to take on their unhappiness with him.
18. Jesus' mission was to please his father, not mankind.
19. In fact, pleasing God and pleasing everyone else is impossible most of the time.
20. We are to live before an audience of one. It's not that we don't love others or care about them. It's that we have one goal and one mission and that is to do everything for the glory of God.
21. This morning we will look at the last two verses of this story.

**TEXT:** **Luke 8:37-39** 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.

**TITLE:** **The Real Miracle.**

**INTRO:**

1. Having spent now several weeks reading and re-reading this story, I have come to the conclusion that this story would make a great movie.
2. If Hollywood ever got ahold of this story, with all the sensational elements that it contains, they would have a blast creating a visually exciting movie that would energize your senses.
3. Go with me for just a few minutes as we imagine what a Hollywood movie of this story would be like.
4. The movie would begin with some calming music, and it would show Jesus and his disciples rowing across the lake.
5. No storm. No major problems, just a bunch of guys going from one place to another.
6. Then as they got closer to the shore near the town of Gadera, the music would change and become more suspenseful.

7. They row up close to the shore, land the boat, and one by one they pile out of the boat.
8. Off in the distance however, this demon possessed man would have noticed them coming toward the shore, and he would have run to where they were going to land the boat.
9. As they got out of the boat, the sight of this man would be visually stimulating.
10. The man is wearing no cloths. He is filthy from head to toe.
11. His hair is long and matted. His beard is long and has specs of dust and debris in it.
12. His fingernails and toenails would be uncut. And that is just what he looks like on the outside.
13. Immediately laying eyes on Jesus, the demons would begin to manifest themselves.
14. They would literally overtake this man, and as they began to speak to Jesus the voice would be a deep, terrible sounding groaning. The sound of his voice would make your skin crawl.
15. Jesus begins to tell the demons to come out of the man, but in this evil voice they mock him and resist him and try and bargain with him.
16. There is a battle going on.
17. Then the story would flash back in time, and it would follow along for a while the life of this man, and we would see glimpses of where he had allowed these demons to overtake his life.
18. Acts of disobedience. Indifference toward the Lord. Compromise in this area and that area of his life.
19. These flashbacks would reveal to us exactly how bound and tormented this man really was.
20. Then the scene would shift to the people in the town, and how they had tried everything they knew to get this man under control.
21. It would show him in chains and leg irons being guarded by someone.
22. Then it would show him ripping the chains apart and running off toward these eerie tombs where he would sleep and make his home.
23. Then the scene would come back to the present. Jesus is standing there, asking the demon his name. And again, in that evil voice the

- demon would respond. Our name is Legion because we are many.
24. Finally, after Jesus had had enough, he would command the demons one last time to come out of the man.
  25. As Jesus raised his voice, in my mind the scene would shift to inside this man's heart and life.
  26. It shows this big open space, and the space is filled with multitudes of the most evil looking, demonic, unhuman like beings you had ever seen in your life.
  27. And then all of the sudden, at the sound of Jesus command, the Holy Spirit would burst through the door, and when He did, every demon in the place would look toward Him.
  28. The Holy Spirit immediately begins to take charge. I know all you evil beings have been making this man's life your home, but not anymore.
  29. I'm here to let you know that I'm moving in, and we can't all exist together. There's only room for me, the father, and the son inside this man's life.
  30. The demons would try and fight it, but the Holy Spirit would just laugh.
  31. I know there are a bunch of you guys and only one of me, but we all know I'm stronger than you, and we all know you guys are about ready to pack your bags and hit the road, so you might as well get after it.
  32. And with that, the demons knowing they had no shot at being able to stay, would begin to leave this man's heart and life.
  33. Then the scene would shift back to outside this man.
  34. We would see the demons in droves leave this man and enter into this herd of pigs.
  35. Hollywood would love this scene. They would have cameras right in the middle of the herd, and the minute the demons entered the pigs, we would see them go stark raving mad.
  36. Then the camera would stay on them as they ran and rushed over the cliff and drown in the lake.
  37. There would be dead pigs floating on the water. It would be a horrific sight to behold.
  38. Then the scene would shift back to the herdsman, and the look of

fear on their faces.

39. They run into the town and they tell everyone they see what has happened.
40. Before long a very large crowd of people have gathered around Jesus, with the man who had been formerly demon possessed, sitting still, clothed, and in his right mind at the feet of Jesus.
41. But there would be no jubilation. There would be no cheering. Instead there would be fear so strong that you could feel it.
42. Leave us Jesus. Please, we don't want you to be here anymore.
43. And Jesus, with possibly a disappointed look on his face would motion to the disciples to head to the boat.
44. And so, the very last scene of the movie would be verses 38 and 39. And it would look something like this.
45. The disciples are already in the boat, and Jesus is on the side of the boat with one leg in and one leg out.
46. The man who had been demon possessed would be begging Jesus to let him come along. After all this was the greatest thing, this man had ever experienced.
47. But Jesus looks at him and says, no. you can't go with us.
48. Go back home and tell how much God has done for you.
49. We would see Jesus lift his other leg into the boat and the disciples rowing the boat away from shore, and then we would see the man walking away from the shore.
50. The camera would stay on the man for a little while, and then the music would come in, and the words "The End" would appear on the screen.
51. The people in the theater would get up out of their seats as the lights started to come up. They would throw their popcorn bags in the trash, and they would all go home having been entertained.
52. That's where Hollywood would have ended the story. And to be transparent, for many years, in my mind, that's kind of where it ends as well.
53. Because except for one last sentence, we don't know exactly what happens in this man's life next.
54. We know what happens with Jesus and the disciples, but the only

thing we know about this man is what we find in verse 39.

55. Luke 8:39 So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

56. That's it. That's the last we see or hear about his man who had been demon possessed.

57. For quite a while, the Holy Spirit has been challenging me on how I view this story and especially its ending.

58. For years, every time I have read or thought about this story, I have focused on all the things that happened between verse 26 through verse 38.

59. And for me, the last sentence of the story has been just a tag. Kind of like an add on.

60. Partly because in the first 13 verses we get all these amazing details. But in that last sentence we have almost no details.

61. But I have begun to view and think about this story differently. The Lord has been challenging me to believe and accept that the greatest miracle of this story didn't happen in the first 13 verses, the greatest miracle of this story is what happened in the last sentence.

62. The first 13 verses cover the events of a few hours. But the last sentence cover the remainder of this man's life.

63. The first 13 verses allow us a glimpse into one particular miracle and moving of God's Spirit. But I believe the last sentence allows us to see hundreds if not thousands of instances of the moving of God's Spirit.

64. The first 13 verses allow us to see one man changed and a multitude of people left the same.

65. But that last sentence represents hundreds if not thousands of people given the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to change their life.

66. The last sentence allows us to see this man's obedience to what the Lord told him to do.

67. Here's what Jesus told him to do. Return home and tell how much God has done for you.

68. And what did this man do in response to Jesus' command and the change that had taken place in his life? The man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

69. The book of Mark gives us a little bit more insight into what this man

did, and the response of those who heard. **Mark 5:20** 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.

70. Mark let's know that the town of Gadera, where this man was from, was a part of a larger region called the Decapolis.
71. The Decapolis was a region that included not only the town of Gadera, but 9 other towns as well.
72. This man didn't go and tell what Jesus had done for him in one town, he told what Jesus did for him in 10 towns.
73. In the first 13 verses we see one example of the Holy Spirit moving and the devil being defeated.
74. But I sincerely believe that the last sentence in Luke 8:39 allows us to see hundreds, if not thousands of examples of the Holy Spirit moving and the enemy being defeated.
75. As spirit filled believers it can become easy for us to become enamored with the lights, camera, action of the bible.
76. To focus in on the big events. The amazing miracles.
77. And to be clear, there is nothing wrong with that.
78. **But if all we do is focus in on the big miracles of the bible, we have an incomplete picture of who God is and what he wants for our lives.**
79. And that incomplete picture can leave us feeling like we could never make a difference for the Lord because the Lord has never done some big, amazing, or mind-blowing thing through me.
80. Which by the way is exactly what the enemy hopes we will settle for.
81. But more and more I am becoming convinced that the greatest miracles don't take place in the headlines that everyone reads and hears about, the greatest miracles take place when we, like this man, obey the Lord's desire for us to simply share one on one with others what Jesus had done for us.
82. This man didn't have a bible degree. He had no training or experience in how to share what Jesus had done for him.
83. To our knowledge he probably knew almost nothing about the bible.
84. But none of those things were the most important and none of those are what Jesus told him to share about.
85. **Jesus simply commanded him to go home and tell how much God**

had done for him. That's it.

86. And that is a commandment that all of us can keep. No giant, billboard size miracle needed.

#### Conclusion:

1. I truly believe what this process of this man telling what God had done for him looked like this. (the 4 chairs)
2. This man went home to his family. Oh by the way. His family were some of the ones in the crowd who asked Jesus to leave.
3. This man probably sat down with his parents, or a sibling, or another close relative.
4. They were asking him what had happened. And the man responds. I don't know. All I know is I was bound and I was in darkness.
5. You know. You know what I was like. But that man Jesus set me free.
6. And those family members may have been scared of what Jesus had done, but when the Holy spirit began to help them realize that their relative was different. They know he has been changed and that change is what opened up the door for them to know more about who Jesus was.
7. This man then found some friends. Man, I'm sorry our friendship got damaged.
8. I really started to hit some low times. I compromised in some areas and I sinned big time. And all the while he is confessing those friends' hearts are being touched by the Holy Spirit. Because they think they are the only one's caught up in sin and bondage. But now they know they are not alone.
9. And when he tells them how Jesus set him free, the holy Spirit draws them toward Jesus' love and forgiveness.
10. Then the man runs into an acquaintance or a random stranger.
11. And again he shares what he was like in his old life, and how Jesus set him free.
12. And the whole time the heart of that person is burning because the Holy Spirit is speaking to them in ways no one ever has.
13. And then he goes out of his town and repeats the process all over again. One at a time. One at a time he shares what Jesus had done



for him.

14. Now. I'm not saying everyone accepted Jesus because they didn't.
15. But we can be absolutely sure that the holy Spirit was at work and moving because Mark says all the people were amazed.
16. Amazed at what? His speaking ability? His bible knowledge? His having all the answers to their questions? Not at all.
17. They were amazed and what God had done for him, and I believe filled with faith about what the Lord could do for them.
18. Spiritual victory is not just when we win a battle and experience breakthrough.
19. Spiritual victory is also when others experience breakthrough because of what the Lord has done for us.
20. When we share, one on one what the Lord has done for us.
21. So I ask you. Which was the greater miracle and move of God's Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit moving one time and one man being set free? Or one man sharing his faith hundreds of times and the Holy Spirit moving on the heart of all those who heard?
22. You and I don't need a Hollywood size miracle to be used by the Lord. We just need to be willing to share with others, one on one, the us sized miracle God has done.
23. Pray.
24. Will you allow the Lord to change and adjust, if necessary, your mindset about what he can and can't do through you?
25. Will you dare to believe that a move of the Spirit is a move of the Spirit even if it's just two people talking one on one?