

Sermon: The Sovereign Power of Jesus Over Evil.

Series: *Luke the Gospel for Everyone*

Scripture: Luke 8:26-39.

Date: August 11, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) In what ways, if any, do you struggle to believe in supernatural evil?

b) The primary way that Satan and the forces of evil attack us is through temptations and lies. What temptations can you identify in your life? What lies about yourself, God, or others do you allow yourself to listen to?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) What does this story teach us about God's power over supernatural evil? Note that the Christian faith does not teach a dualism between good and evil as equal forces vying for control?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) How does this story, including the destruction of the pigs, remind us that God wants to destroy evil without destroying us? How did the cross accomplish this for us?

b) The cross is the great exchange – Jesus became like us so that we could become like him.

In what way will Jesus become like the demon possessed man (note that Jesus was not demon possessed on the cross, but he was demon oppressed)?

In what way will the man become like Jesus (see v. 35)?

In what way are we who are in Christ “at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in our right minds?”

APPLICATION

a) Consider this story alongside the cross. When it looks like evil is winning God is actually doing his greatest work. Is there an area of your life where it appears that evil is winning? How might God be turning that evil into good as he did on the cross of Christ?

b) Look at verse 39 again. How is this verse an example for all believers? This week, with whom can you share your story about “what God has done for you?” (Hint: start with your small group)

PRAYER

- Thank God for his power over evil.
- Confess ways that you have allowed Satan to grab a foothold in your thinking with his lies.
- Thank Jesus for his “great exchange” with you on the cross.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to deliver you from the Evil One.