

DEMON POSSESSION PLAIN AND SIMPLE | LUKE 8:26-27, 29

WHERE THEY WERE

- Region of the Gerasenes – a region which included the city of Gadera (thus KJV says Gadarenes)
- A village called Gergesa (thus Matthew says region of the Gergasenes in KJV)

WHO THIS WAS

- Was this man Jewish or Gentile? No record is given. Jesus and his disciples are in a region known for many gentile residents, but also with many Jewish residents (it was the land of Manasseh). In Acts, Peter seems to have no experience with gentiles as it relates to the work of Jesus, so this is likely a Jew living in this region of many gentiles.
- It is possibly the same region as the Prodigal Son, who tended hogs after he squandered his wealth.

WHAT THIS WAS

- Demon possession cannot be confused with mental illness.
- Those possessed with demons were always beyond control, without mental capacity, often with great physical capacity, and always sought to harm themselves.

DEMON POSITION PLAIN AND SIMPLE | LUKE 8:28, 30-32

DEMONS ARE AT THE MERCY OF JESUS CHRIST

- The man cried out, but the demons were doing the talking.
- The demons were fearful of Jesus, begging not to be tormented.
- The great fear of demons is the abyss, likely mentioned in 1 Peter 3:9 and Revelation 11.

DEMONS APPEAR TO HAVE A NEED TO POSSESS

- Having possessed the man, now they desire to possess the swine.
- There is no account in the New Testament of a demon without possession. The closest is Revelation 16:14.

EXORCISM PLAIN AND SIMPLE | LUKE 8:33-36

EXORCISM IS NEVER INCONSPICUOUS

- There is no such thing as “recovering” from demon possession—one who is demon possessed has the demon exorcised, and is immediately and fully healed.
- In the case of demon possession, everyone knows one has it, and everyone knows one has been released from it.

THERE IS NO COMMAND FOR EXORCISMS TODAY

- Those who want to claim Matthew 10:8 must also claim Matthew 10:9

THERE IS NO FORMULA FOR EXORCISM IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- Holy water, prayer beads, a crucifix, or an incantation are no more useful in casting demons than pipe cleaners and silly putty.

THERE IS NO BIBLICAL EVIDENCE THAT DEMON POSSESSION HAPPENS TODAY

- In the epistles to the church, there is no demon possession, no teaching on exorcism, and no demonic possession.
- Better than, “Can a Christian be possessed?” we should ask, “Can anyone be possessed today?” Any answer is an answer from silence or situational evidence, neither of which are verifiable.

EVANGELISM PLAIN AND SIMPLE | LUKE 8:37-39

GREAT WORKS OF GOD DO NOT ALWAYS EQUATE TO A GREAT RESPONSE

- The working of miracles did not normally result in great commitments to Christ.

UNTIL HIS SECOND COMING, JESUS NEVER GOES WHERE HE IS NOT WANTED

- When He returns, it will be at the invitation of Israel, but then He will “rule the nations with a rod of iron.”
- In this age, Jesus comes where invited.

IF YOU AND I WILL SIMPLY TELL OTHERS OF “WHAT GREAT THINGS JESUS HAS DONE”
FOR US, WE WILL BE GOOD EVANGELISTS