

### WARM-UP

- Is there something many people like but you don't find appealing? What is it and why?
- Who are the people you always share your good news with?
- Have you ever had a bad habit? How did you get rid of it?

**WORD** <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me."<sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. **LUKE 8:28-29**

(Read also **LUKE 8:27, 30-39.**)

Oppression comes in many forms; not just demonization. Some of us may not experience such an extreme form of oppression, but the enemy could oppress people in different ways. In this story, a man severely oppressed by a demon needed deliverance. Jesus was the only one able to free him from his bondage. Today, as we look closer at this story, let's be in faith. If Jesus could deliver people from severe forms of oppression, He could free us and those around us from whatever holds us in bondage, too.

## 1 | There was an oppressed man in need of deliverance.

*When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. LUKE 8:27*

Jesus had just arrived in the town of Gerasenes when He met a man who was oppressed by a legion (or thousands) of demons. He was driven insane, walked around naked, isolated, lived among tombs and in the desert. No one could, or wanted to, help him. They may have stayed away out of fear. If this happened today, some people may be cautious around such a person and be reluctant to help. Why do you think the man seemed to be a hopeless case?

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## 2 | Jesus brought deliverance.

*<sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. . . . <sup>32</sup>Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.*

**LUKE 8:28-29, 32**

Jesus has authority over everything, even demons. Jesus *commanded the unclean spirits to come out* of the man, and they recognized Him as the *Son of the Most High God*. Out of fear, the legion of demons begged Jesus not to condemn them yet into the abyss, but to let them inhabit the pigs on the hillside instead. And so He let them. Because of His presence and authority, the man was now free. This shows that Jesus is truly the Son of God sent by the Father. When we call on the name of Jesus, we too can experience deliverance

from oppression. According to Luke 4:18, what did Jesus come here to do?

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### 3 | Jesus brought restoration.

*Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.* **LUKE 8:35**

Jesus did more than just set the man free. After the demons had gone from him, the man was *in his right mind*. Jesus had restored the man's identity, dignity, sanity, and place in society. Moreover, Luke 8:38–39 records that Jesus gave him a new purpose. The man was used by God to tell his community and the whole city about Jesus and what He had done. As followers of Christ, we are empowered to bring His restoration by the Holy Spirit to the broken places in our communities. What does John 10:10 say about the devil? About Jesus?

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People respond to miracles differently. The man who received the miracle found new life, joy, and purpose in Jesus. Sadly, the people around him, even though they had witnessed the drastic change in the man, were filled with *great fear* (Luke 8:37). In the same way, not everyone will rejoice with us, recognize who God is, or draw near to Him. But that should not stop us from praying for miracles or preaching the gospel. As God continues to do miracles in our lives today, He will make Himself known to the world.

## APPLICATION

- How do you think you would respond to oppression? How does today's message change your view or course of action on this?
- In what areas of your life do you need God's deliverance? Ask someone to pray with you and consider what steps you can take this week in light of this.
- Read and meditate on Luke 4:18–19 this week. How can you actively take part in advancing God's kingdom and proclaiming the Lord's salvation?

## PRAYER

- Thank God that in Jesus, we have the miracle of deliverance over any form of oppression. Pray that you would continue to live in the freedom and restoration He has given you.
- Pray Luke 4:18–19 over your family. Pray that your community can know God as a miracle-worker and draw near to Him.
- As you pray for miracles, ask God to open the hearts of people to encounter Christ and receive Him as their Lord and Savior.



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