

Matthew 8:28-34 - The King has power over the spiritual world!

Scriptures:

1 John 4:4 - You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Ephesians 6:11-12 - Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

28 When He had come to the other side, to the

country of the Gergesenes, there met Him

two demon-possessed *men*, coming out of

G1139 - to be demon-possessed v. — to be under the power, control, or influence of a demon.

the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one

could pass that way.

Notes:

If Jesus is King, He has authority to rule. As the Son of Man, He has authority over mankind and the things of man. As the Son of God, He has authority over the spiritual realm. Jesus will display that authority in this text.

'Gergesenes' = Gadarenes

Demons are real. They are just as real as are angels. In fact, demons used to be angels. We also call demons fallen angels. Demons are still active in the world. Some but not all evil activity in the world can be attributed to demonic activities.

In the ancient world, most bad things could be attributed to demons. This is still prevalent in the world today. The Egyptians believed the body had 36 parts and that any one or all of them could be possessed by demons.

There are some today would challenge the reality of demons or suggest that they are no longer active in the world. The Bible clearly teaches the reality of demons and does nothing to suggest that somehow they are being suppressed either by God or by the church.

The best and only defense against demon possession is Jesus Christ. Once someone gives their life to Christ, the Holy Spirit take up residence within you. He will not share your life with a demon. As long as we are in Christ, we are protected from demon possession. We are not to live in fear of demons (1 John 4:4). Paul warns us that the conflicts of life originate in the spiritual realm (Ephesians 6:11-12).

Demons are still in the world, and it is possible that they might oppress or distress a believer. The best defense against that is following Christ as closely as possible.

Scriptures:
Matthew 4:3 - Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What

have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of

God? Have You come here to torment us

G928 - torture

before the time?"

G2540 -

Notes:
In verse 27 after Jesus calmed the storm with a word, the men in the boat responded with the question, 'who can this be?' The disciples were still learning who Jesus was. The very next people they encounter are possessed by demons who have the answer.

These are the demons speaking through the men. These demons know who Jesus is. They know that He is God in the flesh. They know that He has the authority to destroy them if He chooses to. They know more about Jesus than any human ever will and yet, they are lost, destined for destruction and they know that.

'Son of God' – This is the second time someone has referred to Jesus with this title. The first time was Satan as he tempted Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:3).

'...before the time?' – What time? This is most likely referring to the day of judgment. Some day in the future demons will face God and be judged for their sins against Him and His people. The Bible does not state clearly when that is. It could be when Satan is judged at the end of the Millennium.

Scriptures:

30 Now a good way off from them there was a

Notes:
Mark says there were about two thousand.

herd of many swine feeding.

Scriptures:

31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You

G3870 -

Notes:

'If you cast us out...' they knew Jesus had the power and authority to cast them out.

'permit us' – or 'send us'

'...into the herd of swine' – why, what would that mean for the demons, or the swine for that matter.

cast us out, permit us to go away into the

G2010 - allow

herd of swine."

Scriptures:

32 And He said to them, "Go." So when they

Notes:
What happened to the demons after they swine perished?

had come out, they went into the herd of

swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine

ran violently down the steep place into the

G3729 -
stampede

sea, and perished in the water.

Scriptures:

33 Then those who kept *them* fled; and they

Notes:

went away into the city and told everything,

including what *had happened* to the demon-

possessed *men*.

Scriptures:

Matthew 16:26 - For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

34 And behold, the whole city came out to

meet Jesus. And when they saw Him,

they begged Him to depart from their region.

G3870 -

Notes:

The demons begged Jesus to send them into the pigs. The people begged Jesus to go away.

It is possible they thought the swine running into the lake was a judgment from God and they didn't want Jesus to bring judgment down on them too.

One of the challenges of this account is the destruction of the swine. No explanations were given as to why Jesus allowed the demons to do this. Swine were an unclean animal to the Jews but destroying the herd for that reason doesn't fit Christ's pattern of behavior.

This would be a significant financial loss to the owners of the swine. Mark's gospel says that when the people of the town came out to see what was happening that the man with demon named Legion was clothed and in his right mind. The townspeople had a choice, be upset about the loss of the swine or to rejoice that the man had been set free. They chose to be upset (Matthew 16:26). 2,000 swine was a small price for a man to be delivered from the living hell of being possessed by so many demons.

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)

Matthew 9

Matthew 9:1-8 – The King has power over sin!

Scriptures:

⁺1 So ⁺He got into a boat, crossed over, and

Notes:

'His own city' - Capernaum

came to ⁺His own city.

Scriptures:

Mark 2:3-4 - Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

⁺2 Then behold, they brought to ⁺Him a paralytic

Notes:

Mark's gospel includes details that Matthew doesn't. Four men carry the paralytic to the house. They can't get in, so they carry him up to the roof, dig through the roof, and lower the paralytic down in front of Jesus.

lying on a bed. When ⁺Jesus ^{SO}saw ^{HA}their faith,

G4102 -

It has been said, 'Forgiveness is man's deepest need and God's highest achievement.' This man came to Jesus because he had a need to be healed. It was a great need in this man's life, but it wasn't his greatest need. Jesus could see that he had faith, and He dealt with his deepest need first.

⁺He said to the paralytic, ^P"^{SO}Son, be of

good cheer; ^P~~xxx~~ ^{SO}your ^Psins are forgiven you."

G2293 – have courage.

G266 -

G863 – pardon, dismiss.

Scriptures:

3 And at once some of the scribes said within

Notes:

The scribes were well educated in the Law of Moses. In their mind, forgiveness came through the Law, by way of a sacrifice at the temple with the aid of one of the priests. What Jesus just said is contrary to everything they know about forgiveness.

themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

G987 -

Either Jesus was claiming to be God or He was speaking blasphemy.

Scriptures:

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said,

Notes:

They accused Jesus of evil and He replies by telling them they are the ones who are thinking evil thoughts. It would have been right for them to question Jesus and ask Him to explain what He understood about forgiveness of sins.

G1492 -

G1761 -

"Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

G4190 -

It is good to question how and why we do certain things in the church. The Bible does not outline how a church service is to be organized. For example, why do we do worship at the beginning of the service? It's not biblical, it's tradition. It's not unbiblical, it is good and useful. And before you complain that we didn't do worship this morning, examine your heart. It would be hypocritical to complain that there wasn't any worship if you don't participate in worship by singing when we do have it.

Scriptures:

5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are

Notes:

forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

Scriptures:
Hebrews 9:15 - And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

6 But that you may know that the Son of Man

has power on earth to forgive sins"—then He

G1849 -

said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed,

and go to your house."

Notes:

This tells us some important things about forgiveness.

1. The works of faith go beyond physical healing – they reach into the spiritual realm.
2. By focusing on forgiveness, Jesus points to the primary issue of well-being.
3. The authority to forgive is confirmed by the healing.

This is a preview of what Jesus will accomplish on the cross. Up to that point, people had to take a sacrifice to the priest at the temple to be forgiven for their sins. On the cross Jesus became our Mediator before God for the forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:15).

Jesus fulfilled the Law and eliminated the need for the temple and the priesthood. There is no longer a need to bring a sacrifice because Jesus is our sacrifice, once and for all time. His one sacrifice is sufficient to wash away the sins for every human who has since He rose from the dead.

Scriptures:

7 And he arose and departed to his house.

Notes:

Scriptures:

⁸ Now when the multitudes saw *it*,

Notes:

'they marveled and glorified God' – Jesus authority to forgive sins was confirmed by this miracle.

'...given such power to men.' – Up to this point the power to forgive sins was confined to the authority of God. Most of those who marveled may have imagined that God had changed the rules and now certain men were able to forgive sins. In fact, nothing had changed. Only God can forgive sins. Jesus has the authority because He is God.

they marveled and glorified God, who

G2296 -

G1392 -

had given such power to men.

G1325 -

G1849 -

[Top of Section](#) [Top of Chapter](#)