

The Demoniac Healed

TEXT Luke 8:26-40

OBJECTIVE The students will describe how Jesus has power to defeat Satan.

MEMORY VERSE Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. — Matthew 28:18

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Jesus came and spake un - to them, spake un - to them say - ing,

All pow'r is giv - en un - to me in Hea - ven and in earth.

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

JESUS CAME — Place right middle finger to left palm, left middle finger to right palm.

AND SPAKE UNTO THEM, SAYING — Touch lips with fingers, move hand away from face.

ALL POWER — With right hand feel muscle of left arm flexed.

IS GIVEN UNTO ME — Spread hands out, palms up; move hands toward body, touching chest.

IN HEAVEN — Wave arm left to right pointing up, looking up.

AND IN EARTH — Place hands together in front of body, move arms away from body pointing down, and looking down.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Cut apart the arrangement showing Jesus and the world with surrounding pieces, as indicated by the heavy lines. (See pattern at end of lesson.) Put up a section at a time in the appropriate order as your students learn the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Make two simple figures from paper, one considerably larger than the other. Have students hold each figure, and stretch a string between them. Tell your class that the two figures are going to have a tug-of-war. Which one do they think will win? Why? Explain

that God and Satan are on opposite sides, but God is stronger and has more power than Satan.

1. Jesus arrived in Gadara, and outside of the city He met a man living in the tombs who was possessed with devils.

2. The possessed man fell down before Jesus and called out to Him, recognizing Him as the Son of God.

3. Jesus asked him his name and he said, "Legion," for there were many devils in him. The devils begged Jesus not to command them to go out into the sea.

4. They asked that they be allowed to enter into the swine which were feeding on the mountain.

Climax: Jesus caused the devils to leave the man, and they entered into the swine, which ran down the mountainside into the sea.

Conclusion: Jesus' power was greater than that of the devils in this man. Today, too, His power is greater than Satan's.

Response: The students will be able to describe the events surrounding the healing of the devil-possessed man. They will be able to relate ways in which we can see evidence that God's power is greater than Satan's in our day.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Sea of Galilee is approximately 13 miles long and 8 miles wide at its widest point. Jesus and His disciples crossed where it was about 5 miles across and entered an area where there were many limestone caves used

for tombs. It was there that Jesus met this man who was tormented by so many demons. (Scripture tells us that his name was Legion: his name being indicative of the vast number of demons in him. A Roman legion consisted of 6,000 men.)

As the man watched the swine (there were about 2,000 — Mark 5:13) disappear into the sea it must have been a tremendous testimony to him that he was indeed free from the power of Satan.

Jesus sent this man back to his home in Gadara to tell what God had done for him. Jesus had told many in Judæa and Galilee not to tell what had happened to them, probably to avoid the ever-increasing crowds, but this man was given freedom to proclaim all that Jesus had done because it would not hinder Christ's earthly ministry.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Show some pictures of sick people, explaining that this is what Satan has power to do. But Jesus has the power to heal us. Bring a picture of Jesus. Tell the children how He knows if we are sick or have a hurt on our body. Jesus cares for us more than anybody can care for us.

As you discuss the fact that God's power is greater than Satan's, you might wish to illustrate varying degrees of power. To portray this, stage an arm wrestling match between the teacher and one student.

Bring a rock and a piece of clay shaped in approximately the same size as the rock. Show how the rock is more powerful than the clay, just as God is more powerful than Satan.

Outline the shape of a man on a piece of white paper. Sprinkle the inside of the drawing with metal shavings. Tell your students that the shavings represent the demons that were in the demoniac. When you describe how Jesus commanded the demons to leave, use a magnet behind the paper to draw the shavings outside of the drawing of the man.

As a variation of the above activity, draw an outline of a man on a piece of paper. Inside the drawing put a number of small circles (could be from a paper punch) on which you have drawn sad faces. Tell your class these circles represent the demons inside the man. When you tell how Jesus commanded the demons to leave, blow on the paper and scatter the small circles.

QUESTIONS

How do we know that Jesus cares how we feel?

Who has more power: Satan or God?

How does God help us defeat Satan?

What do we do to resist Satan?

Do you think Jesus knew about the sick man who needed healing and that that was the reason He went to Gadara? Why or why not?

What reasons are there to believe that Jesus knows each one of us and just what our needs are today?

How does our knowledge of the miracles Jesus performed when He was on earth, help our faith?

Why did Jesus need to cast out the demons before the possessed man could have peace?

Who is the Giver of peace? Is there room in a person's heart for the devil and for Jesus at the same time?

Do you think the devil knows who Jesus is? Why or why not?

In what ways does Christ defeat the devil in lives today?

How do we know that the man who was healed was thankful to Jesus? In what ways can we show Jesus we are thankful for the good things He has done for us?

Did very many people listen to what the healed man had to say? How did those people receive Jesus when He came again to their area? What do you think this shows regarding the effectiveness of personal witnessing?

PRE-SCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Spread a thin layer of cornmeal on a baking sheet that has an edge. Let your children take turns drawing in it the sad face of the man before he met Jesus, and then his happy face after Jesus healed him.

Focus on Jesus' power to take out scary thoughts and things that make us feel bad inside. Use a large paper figure with a paper "pocket" heart. In the pocket put sad faces. Empty them out and put in happy faces to represent the change Jesus makes.

Make a series of simple, stick-figure pictures (see Patterns) illustrating the story, each on a separate piece of paper. After telling the story, allow your students to arrange the pictures in proper order, and retell the story to you.

For each of your students make paper plate puppets representing the man Jesus healed. Use two paper plates for each puppet. Draw a sad face on one plate, a

