INTRODUCTION
Beloved, we continue to examine faith that can conquer anything! Remember, “without faith it is impossible to please Him (God).” The scenario of our text sees Jesus having chosen twelve men to become His disciples and from sight to sound is using situations to encourage and strengthen their faith. After His return to Heaven, these men would have to walk and talk by faith. Of course we know that one never succeeded, but thank God, eleven did, and later He replaced the fallen Judas with the apostle to the Gentiles, Paul.

Our text for examination shows Jesus exercising the power of conquering faith when being confronted by a man whom Satan had possessed. Let us examine the power of Jesus’ Conquering Faith. Anticipated Power Points heavily influenced by Butler’s Analytical Bible Expositor:

- The Place of the Overcoming. Luke 8:26
- The Problem Facing the Overcoming. Luke 8:27, 29-30
- The Protesting of the Oppressor. Luke 8:28
- The Plea of the Oppressor. Luke 8:31-33
- The Public’s Outcry. Luke 8:34-37

Sunday School Lesson No. VII – April 17, 2016
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher

Required Reading: Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-36
Motto Text: Luke 8:35, “Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.”

Reliable Resources: What the Bible Teaches by R. A. Torrey; New Pilgrim Edition Study Bible; Easton’s Illustrated Dictionary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Standard Lesson Commentary; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Master Outlines from “The Open Bible” Thomas Nelson; The Outline Bible by H. L. Wilmington
LESSON OUTLINE
“Conquering Faith Overcomes Satan and His Host”

I. The Place of the Overcoming. Luke 8:26
Christ crossed from the west side of the Sea of Galilee, actually travelling through a horrific storm (vv. 22-25), to the Gentile region called by most Gadarea. This was near the area of the ten cities called Decapolis.

II. The Problem Facing the Overcoming. Luke 8:27, 29-30
A disrobed, demon possessed man who dwelled among the tombs confronted Jesus as He descended from the ship. Upon confronting Jesus, he bowed before Him and begged not to be tormented, which shows the demons’ recognition of Christ and their humility before Him. This man had been tormented for a long time (v. 27) and Jesus had come a long way to deliver the man and undoubtedly somebody had been praying for his deliverance.

Beloved, have you prayed for the deliverance of someone, and the Lord showed up on time? HALLELUJAH! The emphasis of verse 29 again focuses on the torment of this man. (Read it again). In verse 30, Jesus interrogates the demons in the man to show His authority over them and finds that the name Legion describes that they number 3,000 to 6,000, according to the military terms of the Roman army. But for Jesus Christ, this is no problem!

III. The Protest of the Oppressor. Luke 8:28
According to Butler, “the demons protested their being cast out of this man…Note:
- The disdain in the protesting…’What have I to do with Thee’
- The doctrine in the protesting…’Jesus, thou Son of God most high.’ They knew the truth (James 2:19) but would not submit to the truth
- The disguise in the protesting…
- The dissembling in the protesting, ‘the demons were greatly tormenting the man but begged not to be tormented themselves.’”

IV. The Plea of the Oppressor. Luke 8:31-33
The demons make a plea because they knew that they had to leave the man.
V. 31 – They ask for mercy. How ironic! But their eternal home is the pit. (Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41)
V. 32 – Any vessel was suitable for a demon, even a pig.
V. 33 – The pigs were not going to live with the demons, and decided to drown themselves.

It is amazing how long we as human beings will live with the Devil! Remember sin makes humans erratic and brings people, like the pigs, down, and eventually leads to death and destruction.

V. The Public’s Outcry. Luke 8:34-37
The public’s outcry was about the loss of product. But when the people came they found no longer a lost man but a man totally delivered, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind! Praise God even when people are more interested in the bottom line above a better man. People want Jesus to “solve our problems but save our pigs.” (Maxwell)

Praise God for Jesus’ total deliverance. We can’t shake the devil off; he must be cast out. When that is done, then we won’t want to play with him or his emissaries. We would desire to do as the delivered man, follow Jesus.

The citizens asked Jesus to leave, and Jesus left. But the formerly possessed, now delivered, took on the ministry of going back home and thereabouts telling everyone, as a traveling evangelist, Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour to the glory of God the Father!

CLOSING
Like the delivered man I can shout, “Jesus Lifted Me” “Glory to His Name” and “Have Faith in God.”

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Please join us each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway where you can ask questions and make comments as Pastor Davis teaches the weekly Sunday School Lesson. All are welcome!