

Luke 8:22-39 – “Faith Over Fear”, Nov. 14, 2021

I. Welcome

A. Good morning! Ohayo gozaimasu! What a blessing it is to gather together as brothers and sisters in the Lord as we worship our Heavenly Father.

1. *Welcome any new people and those who may be streaming content.*

B. Before we continue any further, let's go ahead and dismiss our elementary aged children to their Sunday School class.

C. I want to start by thanking those of you who were in prayer for us this last week. Pastor Nick, Keegan, Dan Callaway, and myself had the blessed privilege of attending the Calvary Chapel Pastor's and Leader's Conference up in Okutama.

1. The theme of the conference was “Hold Fast” and was based upon the verses found in 2 Timothy 1:13-14 which states, “Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.” **(2 Tim. 1:13-14)**

2. We actually studied through the entire book of 2 Timothy and were challenged to continue that which began with Paul and was passed on to Timothy; the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

3. It was a great time of worship, fellowship, study, discussion, sharing, and refreshment. I appreciate those of you who were able to step up and take care of things while we were away.

4. Without your support, we wouldn't have been able to do it. So, thank you all so much.

5. God is doing a great work here in the nation of Japan. There are over 20 Calvary Chapel churches and fellowships throughout Japan and it was great to gather together with so many of the pastors and to hear of God's continued work here in Japan.

D. Well, this morning we are going to continue our study through the gospel of Luke. As of late we've been following the account of Jesus' second tour through the region of Galilee.

1. And the emphasis has been upon God's Word. We began our study of Luke chapter 8 by looking at "God's Word and Our Hearts" in vs. 1-15.

2. And then we followed that up with last week's study pertaining to "God's Word and Our Actions" in verses 16-21.

3. As we continue our way through chapter 8 this morning we're going to be looking at a study I've entitled "**Faith over Fear**". Our text is going to be Luke chapter 8 verses 22-39.

4. So, if you have your Bible with you this morning, will you please open them up and make your way to Luke chapter 8? And then once you are there, I'd like to invite you all to rise to your feet in honor of God and His Word.

5. Luke continues His account of Jesus and His ministry there in the region of Galilee with the following in verse 22... (*R & P*)

II. Intro and Outline

A. As of late the emphasis in Luke's gospel has been upon the Word of God. How we are to keep God's Word in our hearts, how we are to share God's Word with the world around us, and how we are to put God's word into action in our everyday living.

B. Well, here in our text we have two different instances where faith in God's word and faith in God's work is put to the test. And in both instances the challenge comes in the form of fear.

1. Fear is that which usually keeps us from trusting in God's Word and doing God's Word. Fear holds us back and keeps us from stepping out in faith and trusting God for big things.

a. **Proverbs 29:25** states, "The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe."

b. In 2 Timothy Paul wrote to Timothy reminding him of how God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (**2 Tim. 1:7**)

2. While faith in the Lord and His Word will empower you, fear will often paralyze you and keep you from moving forward in the Lord.

3. We want to be men and women that step up in faith, not men and women who cower in fear. So, let's see what we can't learn from our text this morning and these two different examples.

C. We'll begin with this first section by reading once again our opening verse.

III. Luke 8:22;

A. Jesus had just finished addressing the multitude and telling them about how those who hear the word of God and do it are His family; His mother and His brothers.

1. And now it was time for them to depart from this particular area and head across to the other side of the lake.

a. The lake that they are crossing is the Lake of Gennesaret. Also known as the Sea of Galilee or the Sea of Tiberias.

- i. It was a good size lake that was harp shaped. The length of the body of water was about 13 miles and the width, at it's largest point, was about 7 miles across.
 - b. We aren't told here, but we are told in Mark's gospel that it was when evening had come that they decided to cross over the lake. **(Mk. 4:35)**
2. So, Jesus gets into a boat and His disciples along with him and they prepare to set sail for the other side of the lake.
3. And Jesus says to His disciples, **"Let us cross over to the other side of the lake."**
 - a. This will be an important thing to remember in our study.
4. With Jesus' word to cross over, the disciples obediently obliged and launched out.

B. Let's see what happened after they launched out. Read with me verses 23-24.

IV. Luke 8:23-24a;

A. It had been a long day, evening had come and as they set sail across the lake, Jesus decided to get a little shut eye, to get some rest.

1. We're told that Jesus fell asleep while they sailed across the lake. Again, Mark's gospel gives us a little more details saying that he fell asleep in the stern of the boat, or the very back of the boat.

B. All of a sudden a windstorm came down upon the lake and the boat they were in began being filled with water and they were in jeopardy, or great danger your translation may read.

1. Now it was somewhat normal for the Sea of Galilee to experience these sudden storms coming upon it.

- a. The Sea of Galilee is several hundred feet under sea level and is surrounded by high hills that are over 2,000 feet above sea level on the eastern side.
 - b. There are a number of valleys in between the hillsides that create these wind tunnels for the cool relatively dense air from these hillsides to drain down upon the warm moist air that was above the waters of the Sea of Galilee.
 - c. The mixing of these cold and warm airs would create sudden storms that would pop up upon the waters.
 - d. This was a good size windstorm that came upon the disciples. Mark's gospel says it was a great windstorm while Matthew's gospel describes it as a great tempest that came upon the disciples suddenly. (**Mt. 8:24**)
2. Remember as well that they are crossing the lake at night. There was no sunlight to help them see the waves that were forming and crashing upon them. It was dark, the wind was blowing, the waves were crashing, and we're told that the boat was beginning to take on water.
- a. Can you imagine the scene? Have you ever been out on a body of water in the middle of the night where there is no light around you?
 - b. I imagine some of you Navy guys can relate. I know there are runway lights on the top of the aircraft carriers but without those lights you wouldn't see a thing.
 - c. I remember this one time I was caught out on a lake trying to make it back to our campsite where we had anchored off of the beach during a vacation trip.
 - d. It was pitch black. Even with the small light on the back of the boat and the red and green lights on the

bow, it did very little to actually help me see anything.

- e. I remember being so scared that I was going to hit something or run ashore or never find my campsite. I remember praying so hard that Jesus would help me find the way back to our campsite.
- f. Crazy thing is that it was a relatively calm night. No wind, no waves to worry about. But the darkness alone was enough to freak me out.
- g. Imagine if you will being in near complete darkness with the wind howling around you and waves crashing all over you. Quite a frightening thing to encounter.

3. The disciples began to panic and freak out. The more their boat was filled with water the more their hearts were being filled with fear.

C. Jesus though was still sound asleep in the back of the boat.

- 1. What a beautiful picture this creates for us. In the midst of the storm, Jesus is at perfect peace; He is at rest. He isn't panicked, He isn't freaked out. Though the storm rages all around Him, Jesus is calm and relaxed, He is still.
 - a. The same is true for us. When the storms of life come our way and we find ourselves panicking and perhaps freaking out, there is peace and calm before the throne of the Lord.
 - b. Jesus doesn't get freaked out or panicked when things don't go our way. He is calm, in control, and not worried. **He is at peace and He wants to share that peace with us.**
 - c. Ephesians 2 tells us that Jesus Himself is our peace. **(Eph. 2:14)**

- d. And in Philippians we are given the exhortation to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let our requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (**Phil. 4:6-7**)
 - e. Isaiah promises us that God will keep us in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Him, because we trust in Him. (**Isa. 26:3**)
 - f. When the storms of life come our way we can have the peace of God; the peace that surpasses all understanding, as we keep our mind set upon Him and we place our trust in Him.
2. Well, the disciples were panicking and came to Jesus and woke him up saying, “Master, master, we are perishing!”.
- a. In Matthew’s account it is recorded that they said, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”. (**Mt. 8:25**)
 - b. In Mark’s gospel it says that the disciples questioned Jesus saying, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (**Mk. 4:38**)
3. Now remember that a good chunk of these disciples are seasoned fishermen. It wasn’t like these were some timid landlubbers.
- a. We know that they were accustomed to sailing these types of boats.
 - b. These waters were familiar to them as well. I’m sure this wasn’t the first time they found themselves in a storm out on the lake.
 - c. And we even know that in other portions of scripture that they would go out during the evening time, for mention is made on a couple of instances of the disciples fishing all night and catching nothing.

4. So this had to be quite the storm to get these guys riled up in a panic to where they were fearful of losing their very lives.

D. Let's see what happens next.

V. Luke 8:24b-25a;

A. Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. Mark's gospel tell us that Jesus declared, "Peace, be still!" (**Mk. 4:39**)

1. And at the word of Christ, the wind and the waves ceased and there was a calm upon the sea.
2. The disciples were freaked out and panicking. They were fearful of their lives and they came to Jesus and He was able to calm the storm.
3. Jesus is the one who can calm the storms and bring peace to our lives even in the most difficult of circumstances; when the wind is howling, and the waves are crashing, the boat is filling, and we feel like we're perishing. Jesus is there to calm the storm and bring to us the peace that can only come from Him. He calms the storms in our lives.
4. So remember to come to Jesus when the storms of life begin to form. When the winds start to blow and the clouds begin to develop, look to Jesus to be the one to calm your heart and mind and see you through the storm safely to the other side.

B. Jesus responded to the disciples asking the question, "Where is your faith?". We're told in Matthew's account that He also asked why they were so fearful. (**Mt. 8:26**)

1. Jesus asked about two things. He asked about their fear and He asked about their faith. These two things are greatly connected.

2. They feared because they didn't have faith. "*Faith in what?*" you may be thinking to yourself. Let me suggest two things here.
 3. The first thing they lacked faith in was Jesus' word.
 - a. What did Jesus say before they left? He said, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake."
 - b. He didn't say, "Let's try and see if we will make it to the other side", or "I don't know if we'll make it, but let's give it our best effort."
 - c. No, He said, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake."
 - d. The disciples lacked faith in the word of Jesus.
 4. The other thing they lacked faith in was when they doubted Jesus' care for them. One of the things they said to Jesus was, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?". In this statement they showed a lack of faith in Jesus' care for them. His love towards them.
 - a. Whenever we allow ourselves to think that Jesus doesn't care about us, it shows a lack of faith on our part.
 - b. Jesus cares deeply for us, His love for us is immeasurable. He went to the cross for us to demonstrate His great love and care for us according to **Romans 5:8**.
 - c. So, whenever we find ourselves doubting whether or not Jesus cares about us, we are showing a lack of faith.
 5. These disciples showed a lack of faith in God's Word and God's love for them. **Both of which are sure and should never be doubted.**
- C. Lets finish out this section reading the remainder of verse 25.

VI. Luke 8:25b;

A. When it was all said and done the disciples were even more afraid than when the wind was blowing and the waves were crashing. After seeing Jesus' power over the winds and waves they marveled at Jesus and were filled with even more fear than before.

1. This however was a good fear, it was a healthy awe and reverence towards Jesus Christ.
2. And they pondered amongst themselves saying, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"
3. You see, part of their lack of faith also hinged upon their incomplete knowledge of who Jesus was. Not only was there doubt in God's Word and God's love, but there was an incomplete knowledge of Jesus' identity as Lord.
4. When we experience the storms of life we must remember God's Word to us, His promises. We must remember God's love for us. And we must remember who God is.
 - a. In the midst of chaos and storms of life we can sometimes respond like the disciples here and freak out and panic; we may ask:
 - i. *"Where are you, Lord?", or "Don't you know that I'm dying here?", or "Don't you care about me?". "Are you just going to sit there and sleep and do nothing while I perish?"*
 - b. We ask these types of questions when we forget about who God is and we forget about His promises and His love toward us.
 - i. The Lord is with you, He will never leave you nor forsake you. **(Dt. 31:8)**

ii. God knows your struggles and will see you through and make a way for you to escape. (**1 Co. 10:13**)

iii. God cares for you and promises that His grace is sufficient for you. (**2 Co. 12:9**)

iv. God is active in your life working all things together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (**Rom. 8:28**)

c. When things seem out of control and crazy remember who God is, remember His great love for you, and remember His great promises towards you.

B. Let's continue to our next section. Here we will see that Jesus not only has power over the physical world, but the spiritual world as well. Take a look at verses 26 & 27 with me.

VII. Luke 8:26-27;

A. Our account picks up with Jesus and the disciples finally making it to the other side of the lake to the country of the Gadarenes which was opposite Galilee.

1. It would seem that the event described here took place early in the morning and so it is likely that Jesus and His disciples spent the rest of the evening in the boat getting some rest before coming to shore.

B. And as soon as Jesus stepped foot out of the boat, a man that was under demonic possession came out to meet Jesus.

1. We're given some details about this man. We're told that he has been under demonic possession for a lengthy period of time.

2. Also, we are told that he wore no clothes, but went around naked.

3. And we are told that he was homeless. He didn't live in a house, but in and amongst the tombs of that particular area.

a. It's not surprising to think that demons would feel more at home around the dead than around the living.

C. Let's continue. Read verses 28 and 29 with me.

VIII. Luke 8:28-29;

A. We're given more information about this demon possessed man here.

1. When Jesus saw him, we are informed that Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of him.

2. We're also told that this demon had often seized the man and that the man was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles.

3. However the chains could not keep him, for he was able to break free from them and the demon drove the man into the wilderness.

4. Consider all these details and the horrible state this man has been driven to as a result of this demonic influence upon his life.

a. We know a good chunk of his life has been consumed by this demonic presence.

b. The man was stripped of his dignity as he was forced to roam around the area naked.

c. He lost his home and instead, now resided amongst the dead in tombs.

d. Mark's gospel tells us that day and night he cried out and cut himself with stones. (**Mk. 5:5**)

e. So he was self-destructive and tormented day and night.

5. And all of this is very tragic, but it should come as no surprise to us, because demons do as their leader does.
 - a. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The Scriptures describe him as our adversary, a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (**1 Pt. 5:8**)
 - b. And his followers desire to do the same. To destroy us, to devour our lives. We are made in the image of God and Satan and his minions would love nothing more than to mar that image, to scar that image, to destroy that image.
- B. The spiritual realm is real. The spiritual battle is real. Paul writes to the church in Ephesus about this battle.
 1. He writes, “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. (**6:12**)
 - a. Make no mistake about it. The battle is real and it is being waged all around us.
 2. Paul continues exhorting us, “Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” (**Eph. 6:13**)
 - a. Paul tells us we are to engage in this spiritual battle. That we are to put on spiritual armor and we are to withstand, to stand our ground, to resist the attacks of the enemy.
 - b. James tells us that if we resist the devil, that he will flee from us. (**James 4:7**)
 - c. The way we do that is by putting on our spiritual armor as described in Ephesians 6; by girding ourselves with truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith,

our salvation in Christ, the Word of God which is described as the sword of the Spirit and we're to pray, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit.

C. **The spiritual realm is a battleground** and yet, we see today, in the world we live in that it is often seen as a playground.

1. The demonic is glamorized. Hollywood glamorizes things of the occult. Demons, witches, ghosts, vampires, and the like are all romanticized and glorified.
2. Kids are encouraged to play with and become familiar with this sort of stuff. It's seen as merely entertainment, something harmless and fun.
3. Hey! Be careful! The world wants to package these things as harmless and fun, but there is a very real danger when it comes to entertaining ourselves with these sorts of things.
4. We need to be on guard and aware of the dangers that these things can bring into our lives.

D. The demon possessed man came to Jesus and fell down before Him, prostrating himself on the ground, shouting out, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!"

1. I find it worth noting here that the demon possessed man knew exactly who Jesus was.
 - a. He knew that Jesus is the Son of the Most High God. He knew that Jesus was divine. He acknowledged Him as being God
 - b. He was also aware that Jesus would one day torment him.
 - i. Interestingly, Matthew's gospel includes a few other words that the demon said. Matthew

records the demon as saying, “Have you come here to torment us before the time?” (**Mt. 8:29**)

ii. The demon knew that there was a time coming where Jesus would come and torment these spiritual beings. When they would be cast into the lake of fire where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever according to **Revelation 20:10**.

2. Here we see a demon that recognizes who Jesus is, he recognizes Jesus’ authority over him and bows before him, and he understands the fate of those who come against Jesus, but he’s nowhere near being saved.
- a. And this is interesting to consider in light of how some people think today.
 - b. Some people can have the right theology, knowing who God is, they can have the right doxology, knowing how to give proper praise, and even the right eschatology, knowing that God will ultimately overcome evil; and still not be saved.
 - c. **James 2:19** tells us, “You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!”
 - d. Believing a list of facts, or even understanding mentally the facts surrounding the gospel, is not the same as surrendering to the gospel message of Jesus Christ.
 - i. It is not the same as placing your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
 - e. Having the right theology, the right doxology, and the right eschatology, **does not save you**. Placing your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior saves you.

- i. Repenting and submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is what saves us; not a bunch of intellectual facts.
- f. The truth of the matter is, if a person hasn't placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior then their final resting place will be the same as that of this unclean spirit; a place described as hell in the Bible, a place none of us would ever want to be.

E. Let's continue our account and see what happens next.

IX. Luke 8:30-31;

A. Jesus asked the man for his name and the response given was "Legion" for we are told that many demons had entered him.

1. The word "legion" was a military term. A legion was the largest division of troops in the Roman army, and usually numbered around 6,000 members.
2. Evidently this man was not just possessed by one demon, but by many demons; perhaps even 1000's of demons.

B. The demons begged Jesus that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

1. This word abyss speaks of a very specific place. It's used nine times in the NT, seven of which are found in the book of Revelation.
2. In the book of Revelation it is translated as "the bottomless pit". Revelation 20 speaks of how the devil will be bound and cast into this bottomless pit for a thousand years. (**Rev. 20:2-3**)
3. This is not the lake of fire. This is more of a holding cell, a prison in which evil powers are confined for a set amount of time before they face their ultimate fate in the lake of fire.

4. Jesus does not plan on sending them into the abyss at this moment. Jesus is operating upon a divine timeline and the time for their judgment was not at hand. He knew their time would come, but it wasn't that day.

C. Let's continue.

X. Luke 8:32-33;

A. The demons begged Jesus that they not be sent out of the country, out of that area, and asked for permission to be sent into a herd of swine that were there in the mountainous area feeding.

1. Now, if you know your Old Testament law, you'll know something important about swine.

a. **Leviticus 11:7-8** details to the Israelites why swine was unclean for them. They were not permitted to eat it, nor were they even permitted to touch their carcasses.

b. No pork ribs, no sausage, no bacon. It was forbidden.

2. Perhaps the unclean spirits thought they would find a suitable home in an unclean animal like swine.

B. Interestingly, Jesus permitted the demons to go into the swine. He granted to them their petition and gave them permission to enter the swine.

1. As a result of the demons fleeing into the swine, the entire herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea and drowned.

2. We're told that there were about 2,000 swine, perhaps this is further evidence of the great number of demons that had taken possession of this man.

C. Some people speculate as to why Jesus would allow the spirits to enter into the swine. The text doesn't tell us, so all we can really do is speculate.

1. Some suggest that Jesus did so to prove to the spectators and to the demon possessed man that the demons had indeed departed and could be seen in the actions of the swine.
2. Others suggest that Jesus was trying to show the true intentions of the demons and ultimately Satan, that all they want to do is destroy lives. It could then serve as a warning to those around there of the severity of sin and the danger of entertaining these types of demonic beings.
3. While still others suggested that Jesus was simply killing two birds with one stone. That he was able to deal with the unclean spirits as well as the unclean animals in one swift action.
 - a. Proponents of this theory suggest that perhaps the herdsman were Jewish and shouldn't have had anything to do with swine in the first place or that they were Gentiles looking to market their product to a Jewish population around the Sea of Galilee.
4. All this is speculation though. We can't answer the question of why because the text doesn't tell us why.

D. Let's take a look at the next section.

XI. Luke 8:34-37a;

- A. Those who fed and watched after the swine went into the city and all throughout the country telling everyone what had happened to the swine and the demon possessed man.
 1. One would think this was a good thing; people going throughout the land telling people about what Jesus did.
 2. How the man whose life had been tormented for years by demons had been healed. The man they used to have to try and shackle and chain has been delivered.

No longer will he terrorize the people or the visitors that come to their shores.

B. As word spread many people came out to see what had happened for themselves.

1. The people that came were not just a small crowd. No, Matthew's account tells us "And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus." (Mt. 8:34)

2. Again, we would think this a good thing. People have heard about Jesus, but they wanted to come out to see for themselves all that He had done and to meet Jesus.

C. When the crowd arrived on scene they saw the man who was once demon possessed, sitting and clothed and in his right mind.

1. The people saw the results of Jesus performing a miraculous healing and deliverance of the man who was formerly possessed.

a. The man that terrorized their shores, the man they had tried several times to shackle and chain, the man they tried to tame as if he was some wild animal, the man who cried out day and night because of torment, the man who constantly cut himself upon the stones and ran around the area naked; he sat still, was clothed, and in his right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus.

2. Their immediate response was fear. They were afraid.

D. The eyewitness accounts of what had transpired were given and the people instead of welcoming Jesus in asked Him to leave.

1. It would seem that these people had a major problem. It would seem that they were more concerned with the pigs that were destroyed than the person that was delivered.

2. They cared more about the possessions of this world than the people of this world.
3. Instead of being excited about the man's life that was delivered from great bondage they were afraid and asked Jesus to leave.
4. This is amazing to consider. Jesus had demonstrated his power over the spiritual realm, the supernatural, and instead of welcoming Him or worshipping Him, they didn't want anything to do with Him. They let their fear keep them from embracing the greatest gift ever given to mankind.
5. We learn an important lesson from these people about fear. **We cannot allow fear to keep us from surrendering to Jesus.**
 - a. Some people are honestly fearful of living a life fully committed to the Lord.
 - b. They're fearful of what Jesus may ask of them
 - c. They're fearful of what they may have to give up
 - d. They're fearful of losing things that they deem valuable
6. All these fears are tactics of the enemy. We don't need to be afraid of living for Jesus.
 - a. He may ask things of you that are fearful, but He'll be with You all the way
 - b. He may have you give up things in life, but he'll replace them with things that are much better
 - c. He may have you realign your value system, but we can trust that He knows best.
7. These people let fear keep them from the biggest blessing they could ever receive. Don't make the same mistake. Don't let fear keep you from the blessing of following full heartedly after the Lord.

E. Let's wrap up our text this morning, looking at our final verses once again.

XII. Luke 8:37b-39;

A. This is very interesting to consider.

1. Jesus was asked by the multitude of demons if they could be sent into the swine and Jesus allowed it. He granted their petition.
2. Jesus was then asked by the people of the area to leave their region and He obliged their request.
3. But here we see the man who was touched by the Lord, wanted to stay with Jesus and to be with Him, but Jesus said "no".
 - a. Jesus granted the request of the demons who did the bidding of Satan, he granted the request of the nonbelieving multitude that lacked any sort of compassion, but he denied the request of the one that was touched by Him and was delivered and simply wanted to be with him.
4. Why??? Because Jesus had something else He wanted the delivered man to do. He had a mission for him. A work that he wanted the man to complete before he could be with the Lord, by His side, for the rest of his days.
5. Jesus wanted the man to go and tell everyone he knew about what the Lord had done for him. He wanted the man to tell everyone about how compassionate the Lord had been towards him.
6. And that is exactly what the man did. He went throughout the whole city and he spread the word about all that Jesus had done for him.

B. We are in the same situation as this delivered man.

1. We too were once in bondage, tormented by our sin. But Jesus had compassion on us and He delivered us from the penalty of sin and death.
2. And while we may think how great it would be to be with the Lord.
 - a. I mean how many of you just think to yourselves, “Man, I can’t wait to just be in heaven, by Jesus’ side, just being in His presence, being with Him.”? I long for that day.
 - i. We understand Paul’s words when he says to the church in Philippi, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.” (**Phil. 1:21-24**)
 - ii. We understand the desire of this man to simply be by Jesus’ side, in His presence. But God hasn’t called us home just yet to be with Him.
 - b. In the meantime, just like the delivered man in our text this morning, **Jesus has a mission for us.**
 - c. He wants us to tell as many people as possible about all that the Lord has done in our life; to tell all the people we know about the compassion God has shown us throughout our days.
 - d. Our testimony is our account of God’s working in our lives. It’s our description of all that the Lord has done for us. It’s our depiction of the compassion God has shown us.
 - e. And God wants us to share it with all the people we know, just like this man from the Gadarenes. Amen? Amen! Let’s pray.