

# ***God's Power Over Demons***

*Matthew 8:28-34*

In continuing to present Jesus as God's coming King, Matthew relates the story in chapter 8:28-34 to show that Jesus Christ has power and authority over the forces of the supernatural world (demons). Jesus came to redeem man and the earth from the curse of sin and to take back from satan what rightly belongs to Him (satan is called the god of this age - 2 Cor. 4:4). From His birth (Matt. 2:13ff.), to his temptation (Matt. 4:1-10), to his betrayal (Matt. 26:39 ff.) and to His death (1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14; cf. John 12:31), Jesus defeated the devil.

Jesus is the only King and Lord who has power over the supernatural forces of darkness. He came to set up His kingdom and He did that by destroying the works of the devil and even the devil himself. Consider three features unfold in this story:

## ***1. The Men's Desperate*** \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus told the disciples to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (v. 18). But as soon as the boats come to shore, they were immediately met by two demon-possessed men (v. 28).

Demons can tempt people, they can inflict disease (like Paul's thorn in the flesh); they can bring dumbness (Matt. 9); blindness (Matt. 12); epilepsy (Matt. 17), and physical deformity (Luke 13). Demons can attack the mind of unbelievers (Mark 5 and 9).

These two demon-possessed men were living in desperation. They were hopeless and helpless, until they met Jesus. The demons in them recognized Jesus as the Messiah (v. 29; James 2:19; Luke 4:41) and one even worshipped Him (Mark 5:6). But although demons know that Jesus is the Son of God, nevertheless Jesus is not their Savior. He was not their leader. But they recognized that He was ultimately going to be their Judge.

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## ***2. Jesus' Divine*** \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is sovereign even over demons. Demons are more powerful than human beings (2 Peter 2:11; cf. Psalm 103:20; Acts 19: 15-16; Matt. 17:14-16). But although demons are so powerful, nevertheless they submit to the authority of the Lord Jesus. The demons asked to be cast into the herd of pigs and Jesus granted that request (v. 32). Jesus cast those demons into the pigs because Jesus cared more for the soul of these two men.

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## ***3. The People's Detestable*** \_\_\_\_\_

The sad reality in the story is that some people so prefer earthly satisfaction, earthly success and fulfillment, earthly and material blessings, that they are willing to forego Jesus Christ. Instead of rejoicing and praising God for the deliverance of these two demon possessed men, the whole country came and begged Jesus to leave (v.34). They cared more about their goods and their livelihood than their souls and for the souls of others. The presence of a holy God caused them to fear greatly (Mark 5:15, Luke 8:37). But God was very gracious to them because to leave the delivered and converted Missionary to them (Luke 8:38,39).

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Jesus came to usher in the kingdom of God. That's the redemptive purpose of God for man. Jesus said that the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21). It is a lifestyle of power and righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 4:20; Rom. 14:17). Are you living your daily life with that kingdom principle?