

# THE SOVEREIGN LORD



LUKE 8:26-56



# LAST WEEK

Last week:

- Jesus had many faithful followers who were women, who supported Him out of their private means
- The parable of the sowers and the type of soil that produces a genuine faith
- The parable of the lamp and Jesus' exclamation of who His true family is
- Jesus calm the sea
- His disciples, fearful and amazed, were left to question... "Who is this man?"



Who does the world say Jesus is?





# GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

Definition: "God's exercise of power over all of His creation." (Grudem)

*"No doctrine is more despised by the natural mind than the truth that God is absolutely sovereign. Human pride loathes the suggestion that God orders everything, controls everything, rules over everything. The carnal mind, burning with enmity against God, abhors the biblical teaching that nothing comes to pass except according to His eternal decrees" (MacArthur)*

# THEME

**Jesus is the sovereign Lord over the spiritual realm, disease, and death**



## Jesus' sovereignty over the Spiritual realm (26-39)

- The unseen spiritual realm

*For our struggle is not against <sup>[a]</sup>flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*(Eph 6:12)*

- Satan and his demons influence the mind set of the age and the culture through humanistic philosophies, false religion, leaders, and changing of social norms that are in opposition to the truth of God

Demon possession in Jesus' time was high

- 400 years of silence
- No prophets to check the people
- Israel's self-righteousness
- The Messiah had come

# "COUNTRY OF GERASENE"

## "GERASA"

- Beautiful area
- Josephus notes that the inhabitants of this area were Syrians (Gentiles)
- Gerasa was a major Decapolis

*"(Gerasa) had several splendid temples, theaters, basilica, palaces and baths, with hippodrome and naumachia. The triumphal arch to the South of the city is almost entire. Two paved streets with double colonnades cut through the city at right angles, four massive pedestals still marking the point of intersection." (Thomson's LB, III, 558)*

- *Gerasa's worship: The idol worship of the Canaanites*



# THE GERASENE DEMONIAK

**Nakedness**

**Living in the tombs among the dead**

**Seize the man and fits of powerful rage**

**Drove the man into the desert to torment him**



# JESUS' ENCOUNTER WITH THE DEMONS

- Man was possessed by a Legion of demons (thousands)
- The demons response to Jesus (acknowledgement, subjection, pleading)

## 1) Plead with Him to not torment them

- They know their end and they know the timeline that God has set forth that they will be judged by Christ
- SO, they beg Jesus, not to torment them unto the time that He Himself appointed for them

## 2) Plead with Him not command them into the abyss

“Abyss”

- Revelation 9:1-2 -a bottomless pit where some demons remain in captivity currently
- Some will be let lose during the tribulation (Rev 1-11)
- Some will remain there until Christ permanently throws them into the lake of fire (2 Peter 2:4)
- The demons recognize their ultimate end and that Christ has the ability to do whatever He pleases with them...so they plead for an alternativ

## 3) Jesus commands the demons into the swine

- They indwell the swine and drown them



# THE WITNESSES

“34When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and reported it in the city and out in the country. 35The people went out to see what had happened; and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting down at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they became frightened. 36Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been made well”

*“His radical change was complete, undeniable, and inexplicable from a human perspective. The man was clothed, not naked; seated at the feet of Jesus, not wandering aimlessly; away from the tombs, the realm of the dead, and in the presence of the Lord of life; quiet, not shrieking; calm and peaceful, not out of control and deadly; comforted, not tormented; in short, manifesting God-given sanity, not demon-inspired insanity.” (MacArthur)*



# TWO RESPONSES TO JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY

## 1) Blind unbelief (37)

**A. Their own desire to cling to their sin ("asked Him to leave")**

**B. Their Spiritual Blindness**

*"In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Cor 4:4)*

*"What a sad comment on man's fallen and unregenerate state it is, that man should feel more at home with demons, than with the Christ who has power to cast out demons." (Gooding)*

## 2) True belief (38-39)

**A. Demon Possessed to Disciple**

**B. Demoniac to Missionary**

- Jesus says "describe what great things God has done for you."
- He went "So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him"



## Jesus is sovereign over disease and death (40-55)

### **2 people in need of healing (40-43)**

#### **Jarius' daughter (40-42)**

- Synagogue official
- wealthy
- well-respected individual
- OT scholar, astute when it came to a knowledge of the OT and the Law

#### **A woman of suffering (43)**

- pain, misery, and suffering
- The continual bleeding would have also caused fatigue, blood loss, and other complications
- She had endured for 12 years
  
- Outcast of Society
- Ceremonially unclean
- Could not enter the Temple or Synagogue
- Could not be touched or touch anyone or anything less it be deemed unclean
- Outcast in her culture as well as within her own family
  
- She had no money, spending everything she had on possible treatments for her condition
- The doctors she went to for help only caused more suffering and worsened her condition



## Jesus is sovereign over disease and death (40-55)

### **Jesus' sovereignty over disease-the healing of the woman of suffering (44-48)**

"Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

- "Well": in greek, "Sozo"
- used in Luke 7:50, 17:19 to refer to salvation

### **Jesus' sovereignty over death-the rising of Jarius' daughter (50-56)**

- Speaks this phrase in Aramaic "little girl arise"
- Commands for something to be brought for her to eat...why?
- To prove that this wasn't some fake miracle, an "illusion"
- Her parents were amazed



# Summary

**What do we see of Jesus sovereignty?**

## **Over the spiritual realm**

- Demons acknowledge Jesus' authority
- They are subject to Him
- They know they will be judged by Him
- They can nothing apart from His command
- He has complete and sovereign control over them

## **Over disease**

- He has the ability to cure incurable disease with his power by someone merely touching His robe

## **Over death**

- He brought back Jarius' daughter back from the dead with His word (See also Lazarus)



# IMPLICATIONS

*Jesus Christ is God and commands to be worshipped as the Sovereign Lord*

- The demons acknowledged Jesus as Lord
- The people of Gerasa did not
- Man will either bow His knee to Jesus now, or when he returns

*Philippians 2:9–11 (NASB95) — 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*He alone has the sovereign power to bring eternal life*

- A mere man can nothing of the sort
- But Jesus has the power to heal, to drive out demons, and to bring back the dead to life
- So He also does spiritually in bring those who bow the knee to Him to eternal life