

Luke's Gospel – An Inclusive Savior  
Lesson Eleven

[Luke 8:26-39].....Enter LEGION!

vs.26 Gerasenes was an area 33 miles SE of the Sea of Galilee. It was primarily populated by Gentiles (and Luke's only account of Jesus being in such a town)

vs.27-29 Demon-possessed man was aware of who Jesus was, but many in the area were not familiar with Jesus (see vs.35)  
The community had tried to contain him with chains and guards, but it hadn't worked

vs.30-34 After telling Jesus their name - "Legion" - they begged permission to possess a herd of pigs, which Jesus grants  
The pigs drown themselves

**NOTE:** Remember, it was believed that many evil spirits dwelled in the seas. And Jesus has just *calmed* the sea.

vs.35-37 Luke is reminding us that if Legion thinks safety from the power of Jesus is in the sea, that's a **WRONG** assumption

The people respond *negatively* for two reasons: fear and economic loss  
Fear - they witness a power greater than that of demonic possession  
The **TRAGEDY** is that fear settled in when they saw the man had been delivered (vs.35). Apparently this community had learned to live with evil and allowed these activities to be part of their lives.  
Economic Loss - One major source of income was pig herding. Jesus causes them to choose: whether to be happy over a man's deliverance or be angry over the loss of money. They choose the latter. They ask Jesus to leave.

Nevertheless, the power of Jesus comes and disturbs their lifestyles and comfort zones

vs.38-39 The delivered man wants to come with Jesus, but is not permitted to do so.  
Why? Mary Magdalene was delivered from demon-possession and permitted to come, why not this man?

[Luke 8:40-56].....On the Way to One & One on the Way!

vs.42-46 Luke doesn't focus on what the woman had endured because of her hemorrhaging. Instead Luke focusses on the difference of being *present* and *having faith*

vs.47-48 Jesus reveals that her healing happened because of her faith!

**NOTE:** This miracle happens while Jesus is on his way to perform another

vs.40-41 Jairus was a synagogue official who came to Jesus rather than the religious elite

Being a member of the religious society doesn't exclude him from tragedy, but it also doesn't exclude him from Jesus' compassion

vs.49-51 Jesus proceeds and encourages Jairus to proceed in spite of the bad news of his daughter's death

Again, Jesus includes Peter, James, & John in this miracle

vs.52

Jesus is beyond the finality of mortal life. Death *IS* sleep to Jesus

vs.53

{These folks go from mourning to *laughing* at Jesus}

vs.54

Jesus raises the girl from the dead and has her eat something. Why?

vs.56

Jesus does more than raise people from the dead!

**NOTE:** Luke uses the number "twelve" to remind us of the Jewish laws that entrap women – this woman with a constant blood flow for 12 years (she is unclean as well as anyone who touches her - Lev.15:25-30) and a dead girl who was 12 years old (anyone who touched a corpse is unclean - Numbers 19:11-19).