

## Title: “At the Feet of Jesus, Clothed and in His Right Mind”

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Luke 8:35

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**Service Readings:** Isaiah 65:1-9; Galatians 3:23-4:7; Luke 8:26-39

*In the early days of creation, Satan entered into the kingdom of this world and claimed man as his own. And because of this, and also because we are powerless against him, Jesus enters into it as well. What happens next?*

### Message:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

<sup>26</sup>Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup>When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. <sup>28</sup>When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” <sup>29</sup>For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) <sup>30</sup>Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him.

In the early days of creation, Satan entered into the kingdom of this world and claimed man as his own. He trespassed into God’s creation and turned it into a physical battlefield for his own spiritual war. And what is on the line is nothing less than the redemption of man. God’s creation, the one he proclaimed was “very good.” Man has been corrupted with sin because of Satan and must now be saved. And that salvation is completely beyond his control.

And so in this way, the account of this man provides a glimpse into an unseen world that is rarely visible to us here on earth. We know it exists because of passages like these, and because we can view the effects of sin throughout the world, but there is so much that is hidden from us. But this account creates a small tear in that veil, the veil between the unseen spiritual realm and the physical one and we are offered a glimpse behind this curtain. We are prohibited from viewing it completely; we can’t gaze upon the full glory of heaven and we can’t gaze upon the full horror of hell, but the evil that is shown to us is frightening, indeed.

It is an evil that was never supposed to pierce this veil. But because Satan *has* entered into God’s creation, and because we are powerless against him, Jesus enters into it as well. He doesn’t pause in anticipation of any defense we might attempt. He doesn’t even suggest we participate for he knows our inability to even defend ourselves. He enters the battlefield alone and fights for the greatest victory ever conceived: He fights for our redemption.

This is exactly what we see in the account. It is a small battle, the reclamation of a single soul, but it is a soul created by God, lost to Satan, and reclaimed once again. We will see this repeatedly play out throughout Jesus' ministry and then reach a climax on the cross. For it is there that the battle is won, that all souls created by God and lost to Satan are redeemed. It is there that this victory will be offered to each one of us to receive.

But there is another, equally relevant point that needs to be discussed. You see, up to the point where I stopped reading, we see the power of God on display. We see his power over Satan, his power over the demons. He commands them with just his word. But he doesn't stop there. After exorcising them, what does he do next? What happens to *the man*, after this? And because this is a micro-example of the greater story the same question can be asked of us: what happens to *us* after Jesus defeats sin through his death on the cross? You see, God's mission is incomplete if it ends with just the expulsion of all evil. Where would we be if it all ended with Jesus dead on the cross? But, of course, it doesn't end there. Jesus hasn't *just* come to defeat Satan. Listen to what happens to this man. Starting in verse 34 we read:

<sup>34</sup>When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup>Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup>And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed.

See, Jesus didn't come *just* to defeat Satan. Entering into the physical realm wouldn't have been necessary if that comprised his entire goal. No, Jesus came to defeat Satan, to remove him and the effects of sin from creation, sure, but once that had been accomplished he also came to *fill the void that was left*. In this passage you can see exactly that play out: first he commands the demons to depart, *then* he fills the man with himself. And for us? The same thing happens in our baptism. The power of sin and death is first removed, our sins are forgiven, *and then* we are filled with the Holy Spirit. It's like a vessel that is first emptied of all that is bad, but then filled with all that is good.

So where did all this leave the man? It left him fully restored, fully healed, and fully filled. It left him free from the chains of evil and sitting at the feet of Jesus, his conqueror and savior. It left him with all the blessings of God. And though he continued to be powerless against Satan, he also continued to be filled with the Holy Spirit and it was through that relationship that he found confidence that Satan and his demons would no longer find a space to dwell within him.

The same question can be asked of us as well. Where does all this leave us? It leaves us fully restored, fully healed, and fully filled. It leaves us free from the chains of evil and sitting at the feet of Jesus, our conqueror and savior. It leaves us with all the blessings of God. And though we continue to be powerless against Satan's attacks, we also continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit and it is through this relationship that we find confidence that Satan and his demons are powerless against us.

And so when we peek through the veil and gaze upon the evil, we know that we are still powerless against those forces. But even though we are powerless against it, God is not. But we can also peek through that same veil and gaze upon heaven and the glory of God. And even though we know that

we are undeserving of claiming what we see, God is not. And we can hold on with confidence that this is our destination, that this *is* what we can claim, not because we can deserve it, but because the one who *does* has promised it to us.

But here is the bottom line: although we are powerless to stop Satan, we are not powerless to stop God. He has sent his son to defeat the powers of evil, to destroy the sting of sin and death, to reclaim us as his own, and gives this victory to you but he doesn't force you to take it. It is yours to reject. So I leave you with this question: would you rather spend your days focused on the battlefield with Satan, fighting a war you are ill-equipped to engage in, or receive the victory for that war that has already been won? Maybe a simpler way to ask the same question might be this: You are destined to spend an eternity with your victor. Which victor will it be?

Please pray with me

Lord,

We praise you for your love and faithfulness towards us, your children. We praise you for being a perfect, holy, trustworthy God that is bigger than all the evil we experience here on earth. We ask that you give us eyes to see when evil is before us, hearts to hate evil and the desire to flee from its presence. We ask that you would not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil and draw us closer to yourself. We ask for the long-expected Jesus to come quickly and make all things new. We ask these things His precious name. Amen.

<https://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/your-daily-prayer/a-prayer-to-overcome-evil-your-daily-prayer-march-20-2017.html>