

Demoniacs, Demons, and a Crowd Encounter a Deity

Matthew 8:28-34 (ESV)

Bkgd: Last week, we looked at Matthew's account of Jesus calming the storm, demonstrating his authority over the weather. Our takeaway was that Jesus' followers endure storms and experience amazement! In Today's passage, Matthew demonstrates that Jesus' authority extends to the spiritual realm.

²⁸ And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

1. Demons recognize the authority of Jesus (28-29)

- A. Demons recognize Jesus as the Son of God (Disciples did not)
- B. Demons recognize that God is in control
- C. Demons recognize the penalty for sin

³⁰ Now a herd of many pigs was feeding at some distance from them. ³¹ And the demons begged him, saying, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of pigs." ³² And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the pigs, and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the waters.

2. Jesus demonstrates authority over an evil spiritual realm bent on destruction (30-32)

- A. Jesus' authority overcomes being outnumbered
- B. Demons cause destruction (even to themselves)

³³ The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, especially what had happened to the demon-possessed men. ³⁴ And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.

3. Despite credible witnesses to a miracle, the people of the city deny Jesus' authority (33-34)

- A. News of a miracle spread fast
- B. Curiosity caused the people to go to Jesus
- C. Fear prevented the people from acknowledging Jesus' authority

Application:

1. Believers must demonstrate their faith
2. Believers must stand firm in their faith
3. Believers accept Jesus as the authority in their lives.

**By proclaiming how much God has done for us,
Believers demonstrate that Jesus is the authority in their lives**