

SESSION 7

Jesus, the Restoration Man

Have you ever had an epic day? A day that stands out as monumental- or maybe just mental!? **Share your experiences.**

Whatever your day was like- I bet its nothing compared to this day in the life of Jesus!

A life threatening Storm on the lake- that is miraculously calmed by Jesus, followed by the fury of the wild man in the graves of Gerasa and his deliverance, winding up the day with the release of a lady from a lifetime of suffering and the reversal of the heartbreak of a dead little girl as Jesus brings life back into her body!

We are focusing in on when love comes to Gerasa town that day.

Read Luke 8: 26-39

Why was Jesus taking the disciples there?

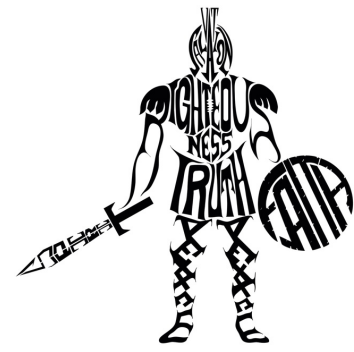
I'm sure that the disciples were hoping that this wild man of the Gerasenes would remain hidden- but as they land- they can't believe it! There he is- running towards them- chains clanking- starkers- screaming and threatening them. What do we do now Jesus? We've escaped one storm to land ourselves in an even more terrifying and insoluble one!

1. Share if you've ever been gripped by fear in an equivalent situation?

This is a remarkable thing that Luke records- remember what the disciples had asked as the storm on the Lake had obeyed Jesus' command to be still!? They said '**who is this man?**' Yet here as this demon sees Jesus- he knows exactly who Jesus is: **Son of the Most High God.** We witness Jesus as unafraid of the demons as he was of the fierce storm- he calmly commands-

Get out of this man!

2. What can we observe about reality of the demonic world and the devastation that it causes on humanity?



Its easy to be skeptical here- but it is at our peril- Paul's reminder to put on the whole armour of God in Ephesians is not to stand against tricky atheists in the office- rather it is because *we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

- 3. What is Jesus' method of dealing with the evil spirits that have taken residence in this man? Is his authority available to us too?**
- 4. How should we respond to seemingly harmless and increasingly visible occult and spiritist activities in our communities?**

For Doctor Luke, a medical man- what has happened to this man isn't just a remarkable healing; it is 'salvation' (verse 36). The salvation which God promised long ago, which has appeared in Jesus.

- 5. Who is your most 'impossible person'?** Who do you consider too messed up, too hardened, too unreachable? Who is the most skeptical or insulting person in you family or workplace?

Now consider the man Jesus met on that Epic day and remind yourself of what Jeremiah wrote: *"I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?" (32:27)*

Whoever your impossible case is- keep inviting Jesus into their town- keep praying with your armour fully fitted- the Restoration Man Jesus is in the business of working miracles in the lives of such people... Incredibly this guy became the first missionary commissioned by Jesus- he woke up mad and possessed- he went to bed that night in perfect peace with a calling and purpose in his life. And many clearly observed his restored life and responded to his story by seeking Jesus for themselves.



Take time to praise our Father God, worship him for the restoration that he is working in the entirety of your life.

Pray for the 'impossible people' who are part of your world and pray audacious prayers that they will be restored in the same way as the Gerasene man.

Take encouragement as you watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-2YvCwCnz0>