

LIFE Group Sermon Questions

The Center of Everything: Begging

Pastor Josh Parsons

March 22, 2026

Luke 8:26-39



THE ORCHARD

Luke 8:26-39

26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 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. 28 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." 29 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.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned. 34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. 35 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. 36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

Sermon Outline

- I. The dominion Jesus has (Luke 8:26-33)
- II. The rejection Jesus meets (Luke 8:34-37)
- III. The transformation Jesus brings (Luke 8:35-39)

Discussion Questions

1. What did you learn today from the Scripture passage(s) that you didn't know before? What is something that hit you in a fresh way?

2. How often would you say you think about the spiritual realm? Is that more or less than you think you should?

3. Why do you think it benefits the Devil and the spiritual forces of evil when we downplay their influence and/or *don't* think about them all that much?

4. Why is it important to understand that our fight as Christians isn't against flesh and blood (see [Ephesians 6:12](#))? What does that mean for the way you live your life? Interact online? Pray?

5. When we meet the man in [Luke 8](#), he's in a bad place: humiliated, isolated, dangerous, powerless, living in the shadow of death, and hostile toward Jesus. Pastor Josh mentioned that this is exactly the position that *sin* puts us in. How have you experienced that? How have you seen *others* experience that?

6. Three times the demons inside this Gerasene man beg Jesus for something ([Luke 8:28](#), [31](#), [32](#)). What does that tell you about the spiritual forces of evil? What does that tell you about Jesus?

7. Why does it matter that Jesus has dominion over the Devil and demons? How might that encourage you...

- ...when you're facing temptation?
- ...when you're in the middle of some trial?
- ...when you look out on the world and are filled with despair?

8. What are some reason that people reject Jesus? How can you incorporate those reasons into prayers for people you know who don't believe?

9. What does it mean in day-to-day life for Jesus to be your Lord?

10. How has Jesus changed you? How would *others* say Jesus has changed you? Where do you still struggle with sin? Where would *others* say you still struggle with sin?

11. How does Christ's power to transform people encourage you when you think on the different sins you still struggle with?

12. The (former) demon-possessed man begs to go with Jesus. He wants to be near him. What does it look like to be "near" Jesus now?

13. In [Luke 8:38-39](#), Jesus tells this man to go tell others about what had been done for him. What makes you nervous about telling others about Jesus?

14. Pastor Josh summarized what Jesus has done for us in two phrases: that he's saved us and he's changed us. What might it look like to tell others about Jesus using *that* simple framework?