

POWER OVER DEMONS

(Luke 8:26-39)

FOCUS

We read in the Bible about demons and about God's power over them, but what are they? In a movie, a woman tied to a bed may rise into the air as she speaks in an unnaturally low voice. Her head spins around, and frightening things happen. Does the Bible describe such things? Is this biblical? Children dress up for Halloween wearing red suits with horns, tails, and pitchforks. Does this reflect how demons really look? The many different depictions of demons may simply confuse us.

1. Why do you think people are confused about demons?

2. Some people reluctantly talk about demons because they fear the results of their discussion. Why?

INFORM

Read Luke 8:26–30.

1. Describe the behavior of the demon-possessed man. See also Mark 5:5.

2. What do we learn about the nature of the demons that possess this man?

3. The demon-possessed man initiates the encounter with Jesus. How do the demons address Jesus? What do they know about Him?

Read Luke 8:31–33.

4. What miracle did Jesus do for this man? How did he carry it out? Why do you think it is done in this way?

Read Luke 8:34–36.

5. What was the result of the miracle that Jesus performed?

Read Luke 8:37–39.

6. How do the people react to Jesus' miracle?

7. How did the man who was cured respond to Jesus' gift?

Connect

1. We live in a world that is skeptical about the existence of spiritual beings. What does this miracle show us about demons?

2. This miracle shows us Jesus' power not only over natural forces but over spiritual forces as well. Where do we see the ultimate manifestation of His power over Satan? See also Colossians 2:13–15.

3. When they saw Jesus' power, the townspeople reacted in fear. Are we ever tempted to be afraid of Jesus? How can we avoid this?

Vision

Once he was cured, this formerly demon-possessed man wanted to go with Jesus. Surprisingly, Jesus tells him to stay and directs him to tell other people the good news. Perhaps the man was disappointed when Jesus went away, but he followed Jesus' instructions. He told others what Jesus had done. How are we like this man?