



DGM Message Title: Jesus or the Swine

Concept: Be the change you want to see in the world

Message Summary: When you take the freedom that only Jesus can give, you will never want to leave Him. If you want to experience it, you can experience it! May your life preach more loudly than your lips. May the change in your life open doors and start a conversation.

Scriptural References:

- Luke 8:26-39 NKJV
- Mark 5:6 NKJV
- Mark 5:13 NKJV
- Psalm 119:11 NKJV

Key Points:

Luke 8:26 NKJV

- Jesus spent most of his ministry in conservative Jewish areas.
- This time, He went to a mostly-gentile area.
 - There were pigs on the hillside, nearby.
 - Pigs were disgusting to Jewish culture

Luke 8:27 NKJV

- This story takes place right after Jesus calms the storm
- From one storm to another. This man is about to attack Jesus.
 - Jesus will respond, but not because He's weak. It's because He's a threat.
 - The enemy does the same. He attacks because we are a threat.
- This man was a savage. He lived with animals; he was dirty and smelly.

Mark 5:6 NKJV

- The man started from afar but ran all the way, right toward Jesus.
- Next, the man falls on his knees and starts to worship him. Why?

Luke 8:28 NKJV

- When He saw Jesus... Recognizing Jesus the man fell to his knees.
- When the man realized who Jesus was, he couldn't help but worship Him.
- Fear is Satan's oxygen. When we are fearless, Satan becomes option-less.
 - We need air to breathe
 - Satan operates best in fear
 - When we don't yield, he begins to choke.
 - What does he do with someone with no fear?

- When people try to attack you, and instead of fear they see Jesus, it will lower their resistance.
- Jesus didn't flip out, so the devil cried out.
 - When the righteous hold it together, the devil falls apart.
 - Hold your peace, let the Lord fight your battles, keep your eye on Jesus.
 - "I will not be moved!" – BG
- The closer the devil got to Jesus, the more he began to suffocate, because Jesus knew who he was.
 - His rage couldn't withstand the power of Jesus' peace.
- We cannot control what happens to us, but we can control how we react.
 - It's your choice how you let any circumstance affect you.
 - "I decide my own vibe." – BG
 - "Please cancel my annual subscription to your issues." – BG
- This man wasn't someone that others talked to. So how did he know Jesus?
 - We often forget that devils and Satan don't know everything. Satan is not omniscient.
 - Devils don't know everything, but they will recognize God in us.
 - Could people know your identity by your response?
- This man was the one person you would want to stay away from, in the entire city. Yet, Jesus didn't cower or run.
- The devil in others cannot defeat the God in you!

Luke 8:29 NKJV

- Jesus didn't try to reason with the demon. He took authority over it.
 - What we saw Jesus do, with all the authority of heaven, we should also do.
 - We should deal with demons the same way.
 - Loved ones, finances, church, health, mind, circumstances... use your authority!
- Many people wonder whether demons exist.
 - Look at today's world... how could they not exist?
 - The world has gone mad.
- How do you know where a demon may be ruling in your life?
 - It's whatever area of your life where God's Word still gets you mad.
 - Stay strong through the Word, and you will be freed!
- There were times the demon ruled the man, and there were times it didn't.
 - The man could be calm one moment, but have fits of rage and depression the next moment.
 - Does this sound like anyone you know?
 - Today, when these things manifest, we blame our personality or the way we were raised.
 - We make excuses.
 - Call it what it is, or you will never fix it!
- This man had supernatural power for evil.
 - If this man had supernatural power for evil, then we can have supernatural power for good.

- Remember, God's power is greater than the devil's. Therefore, our supernatural power is greater than any others'.
- The man had problems already, but Satan made it worse.
 - Satan works to isolate you, like a lion after its prey.
 - The devil wants to get you out by yourself. That's why he wants to get you away from church!
 - We must keep close to our "herd."
 - Some time alone from others is good. All time alone is dangerous. We need each other!
 - Upon this rock, I build the CHURCH (not the individual).

Luke 8:30 NKJV

- Jesus is asking the man his name. He reached out to the individual, regardless of His own danger.
- Jesus loves us despite our demons!
- Jesus asked the man a question, but the worst part of him answered.
 - The demons were speaking through him.
 - The man was saying "it's complicated."
 - There were thousands of issues that were deep-rooted in him.

Luke 8:31 NKJV

- Jesus had the authority to tell them exactly where to go.
- The demons were using the man's voice. That is what the enemy is after!
 - If he could just use your voice to talk to...
 - Your kids
 - Your spouse
 - Your own mind
 - They had to have a body to speak.
- We must know the Word so that when they put thoughts in our heads, we can know if it's from God or not.
 - "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." Ps 119:11 NKJV
- They start by subtly speaking to you, but if you do not know God's Word, they will eventually start to speak for you.

Luke 8:32 NKJV

- The things God has told us to get out of our lives but we let stay, become a landing pad for the Devil!
- The area of your life that you won't surrender, God must let the devil work.
 - It may take for you to hit bottom.
 - God won't change His way or His truth to make it more comfortable.
- Satan is the lord of sin. That is his domain. So, when we enter into it, we give him license.
 - When we license that sin, it brings a whole host of issues.
- But when we repent, God can fix it!

- He can't fix the issue unless we turn from it. Otherwise, we would end up back where we started.

Mark 5:13 NKJV

- There were over two-thousand pigs.
- That means that there were at most two-thousand demons in one man's heart.
- What does that say about the human heart?
- Imagine what it would be like if the Holy Ghost were there?

Luke 8:33 NKJV

- The pigs knew what was inside of them was wrong.
- Only humans can become so corrupt that we can accept an unclean spirit.
- We have to shake off what we know is not God.
 - NASTY!

Luke 8:34-35 NKJV

- All Jesus wanted was to give the man back his dignity.
- He only wants to liberate us!
- Our minds weren't created for this stress, depression, negativity... we weren't built for this!
 - It's no surprise that we will break down when we don't let God manage our thoughts.
- The people were more concerned with the suicide of the pigs than with the healing of the man.

Luke 8:36-37 NKJV

- The people knew they couldn't have Jesus and the pigs in the same place.
- They chose the pigs and asked Jesus to leave.
- The same is true for us.
- If you have to choose between God's presence and what His presence forbids, why would you ever choose the "pigs"?
- Sin is just temporary insanity.
- Everyone's "swine" is different.
- What is the thing you keep choosing above God?
- God loves you, but He won't make you love Him.

Luke 8:38-39 NKJV

- When you take the freedom that only Jesus can give, you will never want to leave Him.
 - The only reason a sane person could permanently walk away from God is because he never really knew Him.
- If you want to experience it, you can experience it!
- Go back to your own group of friends – those who knew you "when."
 - When they see who you are now, they will know that a miracle happened!
- May your life preach more loudly than your lips.
- May the change in your life open doors and start a conversation.
 - It is more powerful than theology.
 - Your changed life can't be argued with.