

DESTROYING THE DARKNESS

MATTHEW 8:28-34

The issue is now clear. It is between light and darkness and everyone must choose his side.

-G.K. Chesterton

I. The Oppression

II. The Authority

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What was the scariest interaction you've had with someone?

Into the Bible

2. The demons speaking through the man they possessed were forced to recognize Christ's authority over them. In the parallel account in Mark:6-7 it says one actually ran up and knelt before Him. What does James 2:19 tell us about this awareness on the part of demons? What then does "belief in Jesus" entail beyond acknowledging who He is and bowing before His authority?

3. Matthew sets up some interesting parallels in telling the stories of these two miracles. In both, Jesus brings peace—to the violence of the storm and to the violence of the men. In both events though, those who witnessed the miracle were struck with fear. (Luke 8:37) Contrast the way the townspeople’s fear caused them to respond with the proper response to the “fear of the Lord” that we are commended for having. (Job 28:28, Psalm 11:10 and Proverbs 9:10.)

Application

4. Given the account of how the demon possessed men were living it seems natural for us to fear the influence and power of demons as fallen angelic beings. What does Romans 8:38-39 promise us? If we are truly Christ’s beloved, what do we have to fear?

For Families

5. Talk with your children about how to seek God when we are afraid or upset.