

Matthew 8:28-34

February 10, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro –

Our struggle isn't against flesh and blood, but against the rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against the powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places. (**Eph. 6:12**)

1. Satan and the man.

Luke 8:27 - When Jesus stepped ashore, He was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a *long time* this man hadn't worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.

Mark 5:3-5 - This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles--as he often was--he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

Jesus: "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy. I've come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (**John 10:10**)

John 14:6 - "*I am* the Way, the Truth and the *Life*."

John 1:4 - *In Him* was *life* and the life was the light of men.

C. S. Lewis: "*It doesn't matter how small the sins are, provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing... Indeed the safest road to hell is the gradual one--the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.*"

Joe Tremblay: "*The road to hell isn't paved primarily with drama such as crimes, genocide and earth-shattering events. It does include that, of course. But it's more often the case that the spiral downward begins with an uncontested thought or a desire that is seemingly harmless; but then ends up carrying us in a direction that is contrary to God's will.*"

Luke 4:13 - When the devil had finished all this *tempting*, he left him until an opportune time.

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Luke 8:11-12 - "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts."

John 8:44 - "You belong to your father, the devil... He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him... for he is a liar and the father of lies."

2 Tim.2:23-26 - Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. The Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and patient with difficult people. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

James 3:14-15 - Selfish ambition... doesn't come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

2. Society and the man.

Luke 8:29 - He was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles.

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3. The Savior and the man.

Luke 8:31 - They begged Him repeatedly not to order them into the Abyss.

The earth is the Lord's and *everything* that's in it. (**Psalm 24:1**)

Psalm 50 - "All the animals of the forest are Mine, and I own the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird on the mountains, and all the animals of the field are Mine."

Mark 5:18-20 - As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with Him. But Jesus said, "No, go home to your people, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful He has been." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Dr. Harry Ironside: *"He who had been a raving maniac a short while before was now so reasonable that the people listened to him with amazement. He became an evangelist, and went throughout all the region telling the throngs what Jesus had done for him; from village to village his story was carried. And so we learn later on when Jesus went back to that district called Decapolis (Mark 7), the multitudes thronged to meet Him and their entire attitude was changed. They didn't want Him before; they were too occupied with the loss of their pigs and with other evil things which kept them from opening their hearts to Him, but now they were glad to see Him. Such was the result of the testimony of one man set free from Satan's power by Christ."*
