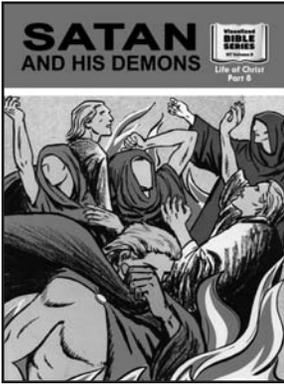


SATAN AND HIS DEMONS



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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

A MAN DELIVERED FROM DEMONS

Scripture to be studied: Mark 5:1-21; Luke 8:26-40; Matthew 8:28-34

The aim of the lesson: To teach that although demons may be stronger than we are, Jesus Christ is Victor over them.

What your students should know: Jesus has greater power than all the demons.

What your students should feel: An awareness of the power of demons.

What your students should do: Trust God for protection from demons.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. A man controlled by demons (Matthew 8:28; Mark 5:1-5; Luke 8:26-27).
2. Demons recognize Jesus and His power (Matthew 8:29; Mark 5:6-10; Luke 8:28-31).
3. Christ releases the man from demons (Matthew 8:30-33; Mark 5:11-14; Luke 8:32-34).
4. Demons keep people from believing in Jesus (Matthew 8:34; Mark 5:15-21; Luke 8:35-39).

The verse to be memorized:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7)

THE LESSON

1. A MAN CONTROLLED BY DEMONS

Matthew 8:28; Mark 5:1-5; Luke 8:26-27



Show Illustration #1

In the country of the Gadarenes there lived a wild man. He had not always been wild. But one day demons (or evil spirits) came to live in his body. They made him do terrible things he would never have done normally—like tearing off his clothes and cutting himself with sharp stones. Once this man lived in a house. Now he stayed in a cemetery among the tombs, not far from the city of Gadara. The people in

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

It is important for Christians to know something about Satan and his demons.

Satan, the “god of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4) and the “prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2), is a mighty foe. His purposes are to defeat the plan of God and to promote his own kingdom. He has a well-organized army of demons to help carry out his evil plans. Demons are wise, intelligent, evil spirits who serve their leader, Satan.

The first lesson in this volume teaches something of the character of demons. Although demons know many things which humans may not know, they are not all-knowing nor nearly as wise as God and His perfect Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This fact should encourage the believer in Christ.

You are continually reaching out for the lost. Therefore, you doubtless have in your class those who have not been born again. All unbelievers are open to demon possession. (See Ephesians 2:2.)

This series of lessons should help each one to understand that no matter how vile the sinner, the Lord Jesus Christ is willing and able to cleanse him, forgive him, and give him a clean, new heart. (See Psalm 51:2, 5; Ezekiel 36:26.) Satan and his demons may be stronger, wiser, and more cunning than we are. But Jesus Christ is Victor over Satan and all his hosts.

The word “legion” in the lesson means a vast number. In the Roman army, a legion was as many as 6,000 soldiers. You may wish to explain this to your students.

the city and in the surrounding country were so afraid of him that they did not even want to pass the place where he was!

At times strong men caught him and bound him with heavy chains and handcuffs. But the demons inside the wild man made him so powerful that he snapped the handcuffs, smashed the chains, broke loose and ran away. No one could tame this man!

Day and night the demons caused the man to scream as he wandered over the wild hills and among the tombs. Often he

cut himself with stones. The demons made him do anything they wanted.

2. DEMONS RECOGNIZE JESUS AND HIS POWER

Matthew 8:29; Mark 5:6-10; Luke 8:28-31



Show Illustration #2

It had been a long time since this dangerous man had talked to anyone. But one day he saw men in a boat coming across Lake Galilee. He ran to the shore. When the boat landed, one of the men stepped out. The wild man screamed and fell down before the Stranger. One demon, speaking for the hundreds of demons inside the man, shrieked: “What are you going to do with me, Jesus, Thou Son of the Most High God?”

The man did not know Jesus. But the demons knew Him. They understood He was the Son of God who had far greater power than they did. And they were afraid of Him.

Again the demon spoke: “I beg You, do not torment me yet.”

The demons knew that someday they would be eternally punished for their evil ways. But they did not want their punishment to start at this time.

“What is your name?” Jesus asked.

“My name is Legion,” the demon answered, for there were many demons inside the man.

Then the demons began to plead with Jesus not to send them to be punished in the prison house of evil spirits (the abyss).

3. CHRIST RELEASES THE MAN FROM DEMONS

Matthew 8:30-33; Mark 5:11-14; Luke 8:32-34

At that moment about 2,000 pigs were feeding on the hillside above Lake Galilee. They were being cared for by some herdsmen. (According to Jewish law, pigs were unclean animals and the Jewish people were not to keep pigs on their land nor eat their meat. These pigs were evidently owned by people who did not obey the law. They probably raised the pigs so they could sell the meat to the Romans for their troops.)

The demons knew about the pigs. So they begged Jesus, “If You cast us out, send us into the pigs.”

“Go!” Jesus commanded.



Show Illustration #3

Immediately the demons fled from the man and entered the pigs. Wildly the pigs rushed down the cliff into Lake Galilee where they all drowned.

The herdsmen were terrified. What would the owners of the pigs say? What would the people of the city of Gadara say?

The men dashed to the city shouting: “The pigs are gone! The pigs are gone! They drowned in the lake. Jesus sent the demons out of the wild man into the pigs! They rushed down the mountain into the lake. The pigs are gone!”

4. DEMONS KEEP PEOPLE FROM BELIEVING IN JESUS

Matthew 8:34; Mark 5:15-21; Luke 8:35-39



Show Illustration #4

Immediately great crowds gathered. When they saw the man who had been so full of demons, sitting quietly at the feet of Jesus, they were amazed. The man was dressed. He was in his right mind. The demons were gone. No one would ever again need to fear that man.

Did the people thank Jesus for casting out the demons? No, they did not!

Did they praise God for the wonderful thing that happened that day? No, indeed!

Did they ask Jesus to come into their city so they could learn more about Him and His great power? No!

Instead of being glad, they were frightened. They were afraid, not of the man who had been delivered from the wicked demons, but of the Lord Jesus Christ and His great power. The owners of the pigs, and the people from the city and the surrounding country, cared more about the pigs and the money they would bring than they did about Jesus, the Son of God.

The people begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone. Sadly, the Lord Jesus turned away from the crowd. Satan, the enemy of God, had blinded the minds of the people so they would not know how wonderful Jesus really is. Instead of believing in Him and receiving Him, they rejected Him.

Only one person in all that crowd followed Jesus. That person was the one who had been set free from the demons. As Jesus stepped into the waiting boat, the man begged to go along with Him. He wanted to be with the One who had freed him from the demons.

But Jesus said kindly, “No. Go home to your friends and tell them what great things God has done for you and how He had mercy on you.”

As much as the man wanted to be with the Lord Jesus, he willingly obeyed Him. He went to village after village in Decapolis (province) telling the great things God had done for him. People were amazed when they heard about the One who had power over demons.

Surely the man explained that the demons recognized Jesus as the Son of the Most High God. He told how the demons knew they would be sent to eternal punishment. And he certainly told that he himself believed in Jesus, the Son of God. Because he believed in Him, he was forgiven of his sin. Now he would not be separated from God eternally; he would not be punished for his sins.

What else would he have said to all the people in every village? He told them that because the Lord Jesus is all powerful—even more powerful than hundreds of demons—He would forgive their sins if they would believe in Him, God the Son.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

In *Satan the Enemy of God* (New Testament Volume 2), we learned that Satan tried to put an end to the Lord Jesus at His birth, after His baptism, and at His death. But the Son of God triumphed over him. Today Satan and his demons are as real and as vicious as ever. They do not like to be exposed, as you will be exposing them in this series. Be on guard! The command of God to you, teacher, is recorded in Ephesians 6:10-18.

And if that man could speak to you today he would ask, “Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? Or have you turned Him away as people did in the long ago?”

If you are a child of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, do not be surprised when Satan attacks you. He has no mercy. Be on guard by knowing God, His Word, and His will. When you obey God, you are submitting yourself to Him (as we are commanded to do in James 4:7). Then, if you refuse to obey the devil, he will go away from you. But like a wild beast, Satan roams about always looking for those he can attack. (See

1 Peter 5:8-9.) All through your life he will tempt you again and again. That is why you must live prayerfully, live carefully. Trust the Lord to help you to look to God for His protection.

God Himself promises: “Fear not; for I am with you: be not dismayed; for I am your God: I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness . . . For I the Lord your God will hold your right hand, saying to you, Fear not: I will help you” (Isaiah 41:10,13). Such assurance from God should make you want to obey Him perfectly.