



**WEST
SIDE
CHURCH**

Week 19

Sermon Series: Lessons from the Sinless Savior

Sermon Title: Kingdom Warfare

Sermon Text: Luke 8:26-39

Group Week of: November 26, 2023

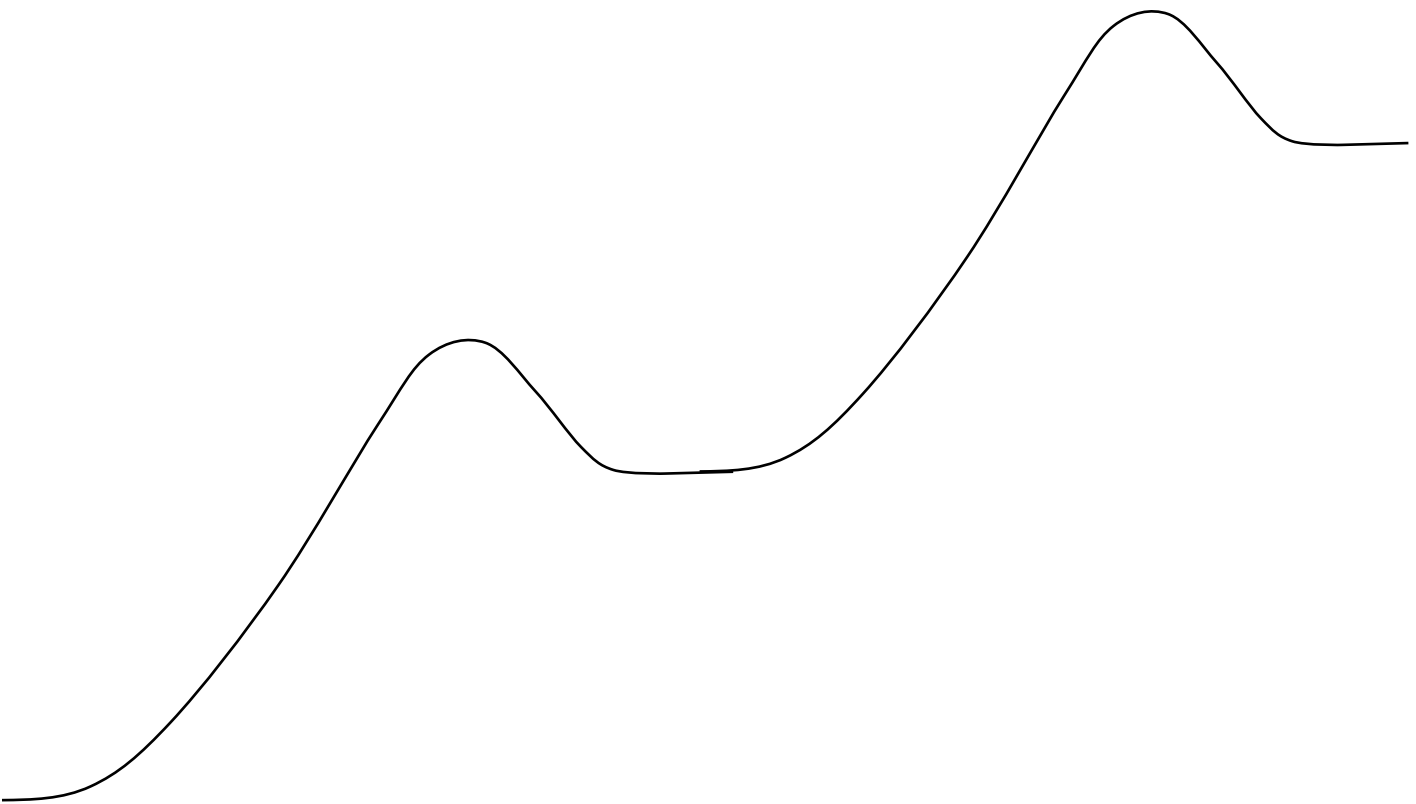
Sermon Date: December 3, 2023

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	The Darkness of Sin – Ephesians 2:1-4
Day 2	Spiritual Warfare – Ephesians 6:10-20
Day 3	Overcoming the World – Rom 8:31-39
Day 4	Christ in Us – 1 John 4:4-6
Day 5	Christ's Promise – Revelation 3:11-13

The Text: Luke 8:26-39

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Fill in the plot arch** by writing down verses in the story as points on the plot line to help show you where the main lessons in the story are.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) that you see God teaching through Luke in this passage?
- 2) What does learning the name of the demon provide for the witnesses of this event?
- 3) Why does Jesus send this man back to his own people?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Describe a life trapped in sin. What is it like? How does it feel? What does it lead to? Read Ephesians 2:1-4 if you are having trouble coming up with descriptors.

- 2) Now describe the life of the demon-possessed man.

- 3) How are the above two situations similar or different? What can you learn from your observations about life under demonic possession and life in bondage to sin?

- 4) In your own struggle against your sinful nature, what has been the hardest and most challenging aspect of sin to overcome? What reasons can you come up with for this?

- 5) This is the only instance of Jesus asking a demon its name. (Some wrongly believe that to cast out demons, you have to discover their name, but this is not true.) Through the naming, we discover that this man was not possessed by one demon but a legion of them, and yet Jesus still overpowers the great number of demons. This may not surprise us who are familiar with the miracle, but how would this surprise the original audience? What does this teach you about Christ's power to overcome both Satan and your personal sin nature?

- 6) Jesus allowing the demons to enter into the herd of pigs is unnerving for many of us. Yet, without the record of their mass suicide, we would never truly understand just how terrible unfettered demonic possession can be. Sometimes God allows great evil to reveal to us how awful sin truly is and how much greater His grace is. When you think about this part of the story and this aspect of God, how do you understand it? Do you wrestle with it? Accept it? Discuss and share your reflections on this complicated truth.

- 7) Although the man wants to depart with Jesus, Jesus commands him to stay and tell the people what "God has done for [him]." He is the first missionary to the Gentiles commissioned by Jesus, and he brings a simple but amazing message. How does the man's example relate to our own call to spread the gospel?

- 8) Write out what God has done for you. Pray that God would give you someone to share that with this week.