



Sermon Notes: *"Familiar Demons"*

Matthew 8:28-34

10.12.25

1. Jesus loves us enough to interfere with Our Bondage

- Jesus' authority extends beyond Jewish boundaries into pagan territory.
- **Modern Day:** The Holy Spirit convicts and draws people toward Christ before they believe.

2. Understanding the Cost to Freedom:

- Throughout the Bible, God commanded pagan worship destruction because spiritual freedom was more valuable than economic stability.
- Jesus Doesn't Guarantee Material Prosperity
- God's Ways Disrupt Human Systems
- Jesus Knew About Costly Freedom

Pastoral Note:

- **Demonstration of Reality:** The deliverance needed to be visible and verifiable.
- **Revealing Demonic Nature:** Demons destroy everything they inhabit.
- Jesus prioritized human restoration over economic considerations, revealing that no material loss compares to the value of human souls.

3. Some People Prefer Familiar Demons

- **The shocking parallel:** The same Greek word shows the town aligned themselves with demonic desires by rejecting Jesus.
- When God's Will disrupts your plans, your response reveals your priorities.

So What?

- a. CHECK YOUR RESPONSE TO JESUS' "INTERFERENCE"
- b. RECOGNIZE WHEN YOU'RE ALIGNING WITH DARKNESS
- c. EMBRACE THE DISRUPTION

ICEBREAKER: *Share about a time when someone (parent, teacher, coach, friend) "interfered" with something you were doing because they saw it was harmful, even though you didn't want to change at the time. Looking back, how do you feel about that interference now?*

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 8:28-34

2. (verses 28-29) Jesus crossed into Gentile (pagan) territory to deliver two demon-possessed men. Why is it significant that Matthew, writing to a Jewish audience, includes this story? What does this teach us about the scope of Jesus' mission and authority? (See also Acts 10:34-35, Romans 1:16)
3. (verse 29) The demons accused Jesus of "interfering" with them. Darin explained how deliverance sometimes feels like interference because sin becomes familiar. Can you think of a time when God's conviction felt like unwanted interference in your life? How did you respond?
4. (verses 30-32) The economic loss of 2,000 pigs is shocking to us. How does this passage challenge our values about what matters most - people or prosperity? Have you ever experienced or witnessed God's work costing something financially, relationally, or socially? (See also Acts 19:18-20, Matthew 16:26)
5. (verse 34) The town used the same Greek word (parakaleō) as the demons - both "begged" Jesus to leave. What does this reveal about spiritual alignment? Why do you think people sometimes prefer familiar bondage to the uncertainty of freedom?
6. (Personal application) Darin mentioned checking your response to Jesus' "interference" in your life. In what areas might Jesus be trying to "interfere" with your comfortable patterns right now? Are you resisting or embracing that disruption? (See also Ephesians 6:10-12, Romans 12:2)

Deploy:

This week's deployment: Identify one area where you sense Jesus is "interfering" - something that feels uncomfortable, but you know needs to change. Share it with one trusted person this week and ask them to pray for you and check in with you about it.

Don't Forget:

- **All Church F.U.N. Night** Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contests! Oct 12th, 5 pm
- **Main Service new start time beginning Nov 2nd: 9:30 am**

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for loving us enough to interfere with our bondage.
Help us recognize when we're resisting Your Work in our lives - when we're choosing familiar sin over costly freedom.
For those wrestling with addictions, toxic patterns, or spiritual darkness - break through with Your liberating Power.
Help us see clearly what we're really valuing - and give us grace to choose people over prosperity, transformation over comfort, and Your Will over our preferences.
We declare that You have Authority over every bondage, every demonic force, and every familiar sin. Set us free to live fully for You.
In Jesus' name, Amen.