

Introduction

[Colossians 1:15-16](#) “15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

We are frequently reminded that we do not control our circumstances. In fact, there are many things that we never see behind the scenes that we don't control. However, we can find comfort in knowing that Jesus has control over our circumstances.

Jesus is the Creator of both visible and invisible things (physical and spiritual). He has authority over visible and invisible things. [Luke 8:22-39](#) shows both of these aspects of Jesus's authority.

Calming the Storm

[Luke 8:22-23](#) “22 One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, 23 and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.”

What did Jesus do while they sailed across the lake? [Luke 8:23](#) “and as they sailed he fell **asleep**...” Much of this story alludes to [Jonah 1](#). Both Jonah and Jesus went down into the boat to sleep.

Why were Jesus and the disciples in danger? [Luke 8:23](#) “... a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were **filling** with water and were in **danger**.” Remember, at least a few of these men were professional fishermen with experience on the Sea of Galilee.

[Luke 8:24-25](#) “24 And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 He said to them, “Where is your faith?” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?””

How did the storm cease? [Luke 8:24](#) “... he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.” I once (or twice) drove through a tornado. One of the reasons that I was so afraid in that instance is because I had absolutely no control. I could only pray that the van did not get picked up and thrown off the road. Jesus had complete control over the wind and the waves.

- Antiochus IV claimed that he could command the waves. [2 Maccabees 9:8](#) “8 Thus he who had just been thinking that he could command the waves of the sea, in his superhuman

arrogance, and imagining that he could weigh the high mountains in a balance, was brought down to earth and carried in a litter, making the power of God manifest to all.”

- According to b. *Baba Mes'ia* 59b, Rabbi Gamaliel calmed a storm by prayer.

Why were the disciples afraid after the storm ceased? [Luke 8:25](#) “... And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he **commands** even winds and water, and **they obey** him?”” The disciples asked an important question - one we should all ask. “Who is Jesus?”

- [Psalm 65:5–8](#) “5 By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas; 6 the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might; 7 **who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves**, the tumult of the peoples, 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.”
- [Psalm 89:8–9](#) “8 O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you? 9 **You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.**”
- [Psalm 107:24–25](#) “24 they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. 25 For **he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea.**”

Summary: *What does Jesus’s calming the storm teach us about Him?* Jesus has authority over creation - authority that belongs to God. Jesus has authority because He is God.

Reflection: We have to be careful that we do not conclude from this story that God spares His people from disaster. If God did not spare Jesus from crucifixion because He was most glorified in Jesus’s death, then we should not expect to be spared from all suffering.

However, the point of the passage is to show Jesus’s deity. Our faith is not ultimately dependent upon our circumstances. Our faith is dependent upon Jesus’s sovereignty. We may die in the storm, but Christ has all authority and will eternally save His people.

Demon-possessed man

[Luke 8:26–27](#) “26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.”

What three details are given about the man Jesus met? [Luke 8:27](#) “... there met him a man from the city who had **demons**. For a long time he had worn **no clothes**, and he had not lived in a house but among the **tombs**.”

[Luke 8:28–30](#) “28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me.” 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” for many demons had entered him.”

What did the man call Jesus? [Luke 8:28](#) “... Jesus, Son of the Most High God ...” This was prophesied in [Luke 1:32](#) “32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David.” It is ironic that the demons recognize this more easily than the religious teachers.

Why did the man say his name was Legion? [Luke 8:30](#) “... for many demons had entered him.” There are about 6000 men in a Roman legion. This does not mean that there were 6000 demons in the man. This simply means that it was a large number.

[Luke 8:31–33](#) “31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned.”

Where did the demons beg to not be sent? [Luke 8:31](#) “And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.” Scripture does not give a lot of information about where demons are judged, but it does state that they are imprisoned until final judgment ([Jude 1:6](#); [2 Pet 2:4](#)).

Where did Jesus send the demons? [Luke 8:32](#) “32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission.” Notice that they could only act with permission.

[Luke 8:34–35](#) “34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.”

Who told the local residents what happened? [Luke 8:34](#) “34 When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country.” It is interesting that the herdsmen understood that their pigs ran into the lake because they were demon-possessed.

What did the people see that made them afraid? [Luke 8:35](#) “... found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.”

[Luke 8:36–39](#) “36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to

depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.”

Because of their fear, what did the residents ask Jesus to do? [Luke 8:37](#) “... all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear ...”

What did Jesus tell the healed man to do when he went home? [Luke 8:39](#) “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you ...” Jesus has done the same thing with His church. He has gone to sit at God’s right hand, but He has left His church to declare all that God has done for us.

Summary: *What does Jesus casting out the demons teach us about Him?* Jesus has authority over the demons. They are at His mercy to command as He chooses. We see this same authority in [Job 1-2](#). God allowed Satan to persecute Job, but gave him limitations. Satan could not go beyond the Lord’s limitations.

Reflection: I encourage you to not distance yourself too far from this demon-possessed man. Although you may not have been demon possessed or living naked in a cemetery, your transformation was no less dramatic. Before Christ, you were **dead**. Jesus gave you new life. Tell people “how much Jesus [has] done for [you]” ([Luke 8:39](#)).

Conclusion

[Luke 8:22-39](#) highlights Jesus’s authority over what is seen and what is unseen. He is the eternal God who created all things and sustains all things for us own glory.