

THE POWER OF THE LORD

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Lessons: Luke 8:22-39, True Christian Religion 123:3-5

Imagine being a disciple in a boat as you sail out into the Sea of Galilee. You watch the Lord fall asleep. Suddenly a storm moves over the water. Wind blows and makes the sea rage against your little ship. Everyone on board is working to keep the ship facing into the waves, bailing water out to keep from sinking. While you are all working, you look down and see the Lord is sleeping! Here you are fighting to stay alive and the Lord is not helping. Finally you cry out to wake Him and get Him to help.

“Master, Master, we are perishing!” The Lord rises up, and not saying a word, calms the wind and the waves, and turns to you and says, “Where is your faith?”

As you land on shore, a man comes toward the Lord. He has long ago torn off his clothes. Guards have been set to watch him. They have tried to chain him, but he can tear the chains apart. His eyes look wild. He cries for mercy, calling the Lord, “Son of the God Most High.” The Lord simply asks, “What is your name?” The man says, “Legion, for we are many,” and the demons in him beg the Lord to allow them to be cast into the swine. He allows them to go into the pigs, which run down a steep hill and are drowned in the sea.

The man asks to go with the Lord, but the Lord says, “Return to your own house and tell what great things God has done for you.”

The hells that possessed that man are the ones who love to get us to make the things we touch and taste be what we love most in the world. That is why they begged to be cast into pigs, which love nothing more than to eat and roll in the mud. They also make a storm inside of us if we let them. How many times do you ask your mom or dad for something sweet to eat? And if they say “No,” does a storm grow inside you? When you get older and get attracted to a boy or girl you like, you will find that these same hells will try very hard to get you to touch the person in a way that you know belongs to marriage. When your conscience tells you not to do what the hells want, a storm will rise up inside you. When you are married, the same type of hells try to lure you into adultery. Like swine they want you to make a desire to touch or taste possess you just like the man filled with demons. When you are excited about what they tempt you with but begin to resist, a storm will blow up. The Lord will seem to be asleep while you feel you will drown. This is the time you need to picture the Lord. Actually picture Him in your imagination, standing right in front of you.

Remember how incredibly powerful He is and how much He loves you and wants to conquer hell for you. The hells want you to give in. You will hear lots of good excuses for taking what they offer. Each morning pray that the Lord will help you see when the “Legion” is tempting you. Then, unlike the disciples, instead of rudely demanding that the Lord help out with your puny effort, picture Him and ask for His help. He will rise and calm the wind and the waves, and cast the demons into the swine where they belong. Then, like the man free of the demons, you may return to your house and tell what great things the Lord has done for you.