

How valuable is the soul of humans? To what extent is God willing to go to save lost souls? In our response today, we are given the reason why Jesus sailed from Capernaum to Galilee. We see the reason why Jesus was willing to go across the great sea, through storms even though he knew Satan and his demons were waiting for him on the other side.

Jesus was willing to go great lengths to save one lost soul. So, if your question is “How valuable is one human soul to God?” The answer is “Priceless.” Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, “What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet loses his soul? What can a man or woman give in exchange for his soul?”

Jesus was willing to cross from land to sea, endure threatening storms and eventually give his very life on the cross to save our souls.

Luke highlights a few points in this passage:

### **We see the power of Satan over lost souls**

We see in scripture that men and women are influenced, affected, and possessed by demons. When a demon possesses a person, they become powerless to exert their own will. They become enslaved by that demon. In our modern context, alcohol abuse can be a demon, hard drugs and opioids can be a demon, the love of money can be a demon. When we become enslaved by such demons all we do is the demon’s bidding.

This story is one of the worst cases recorded in the Gospels. The Bible says in John 10:10, “The thief comes but to steal, to kill and to destroy but I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly.” Satan seeks to destroy the good things that God has created especially his prized creation, which is us humans. The same way the Holy Spirit can possess us and guide us to do good things, we can be possessed by demons who can torture and torment us in various ways.

St. Luke recorded what the demons had done to this man. They had driven him naked to a place of shame and humiliation. He had driven him out of his home and he hadn’t lived among people for a long time, he lived in tombs. Who in his right mind will live in tombs filled with dead people? But there he was. Sometimes demons, like drugs and opioids. can drive people into the streets and make people homeless such as this man.

Many times, he was shackled and controlled by chains. The demons and evil spirits tormented and tortured him and he was really in a bad place. People hated him and his situation was hopeless.

Where could he turn? All of sudden Jesus steps into the land of the demons. And they know who Jesus is. The man who is being tortured by demons begs Jesus not to torment him. The man and the demons knew Jesus had power over them. We have a song that says “Jesus is a mighty God and all the demons bow before Him. He is the mighty God. Even Satan bows before Him, He is a mighty God”.

Here we see the power of Jesus over Satan.

Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” And he said “Legion” for many demons had entered this man. A Legion is like an army of four thousand soldiers. But we notice that 4000 demons are no match to the power of Jesus. Satan as a strong man had this man bound but Jesus entered Satan’s domain and took down the strong man. Jesus bound the strong man called the legion and cast them into the swine and they drowned in the sea.

He takes the man whose soul was tortured by Satan and his demons and sets him free. In the Book of Revelation the Bible says Satan himself will be defeated and bound completely. And eventually Satan and all his demons will be cast into the Lake of Fire.

### **The Transforming Power of Jesus**

We notice earlier that the man was begging Jesus to leave him alone, now he begs Jesus to go with him. Earlier on he was out of control cutting himself with stones. Now we find him sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Before he was naked, now he was clothed in righteousness. Before he was out of his mind, now he is in a right frame of mind. Before he lived among tombs now Jesus tells him to return home. Before he was possessed by demons now he was freed from the power of the demons. Now this man who was tortured and tormented by demons had become a disciple of Jesus proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in his hometown telling people what the Lord Jesus Christ had done for him.

Earlier on he had no mission but now Jesus gave him a mission: Go and declare how much God has done for you.

Each and every one of us who is a Christian has an amazing story to tell. We may not be possessed by the same demons this man had, but we had our own issues. We were all enslaved by sin. We could not get out. We were trapped by things that control us and could have destroyed us.

The people of the town were afraid and asked Jesus to leave their town. To them the swine was valuable to them because they did not care about this poor soul, but for Christ each human soul is priceless. This is the reason why Jesus came to save those who are lost.

Those who are isolated from God, those who are lonely, and those who are lost. The souls of men is very valuable and God would move heaven and earth to save one soul that is lost. That is the God we serve.