

Luke 8:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

Analysis

Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. The crowd's investigation yields stunning discovery. "Then they went out to see what was done" (exēlthon de idein to gegonos, ἐξῆλθον δὲ ἰδεῖν τὸ γεγονός) indicates curiosity mixed with skepticism—they needed to verify the swineherds' incredible report. "And came to Jesus" (ēlthon pros ton Iēsoun, ἦλθον πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν) shows they identified the source of this miracle.

"And found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus" (heuron kathēmenon ton anthrōpon aph' hou ta daimonia exēlthon para tous podas tou Iēsou, εὑρον καθήμενον τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἀφ' οὗ τὰ δαιμόνια ἐξῆλθον παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ)—the posture of a disciple learning from his master. Previously driven to wilderness tombs, he now sits peacefully at Jesus' feet. "Clothed" (himatismēnon, ἱματισμένον) contrasts his former nakedness (v. 27)—dignity restored. "And in his right mind" (sōphronounta, σωφρονοῦντα) means sound-minded, self-controlled, sane—complete mental restoration from total fragmentation.

"And they were afraid" (ephobēthēsan, ἐφοβήθησαν) reveals mixed response. The transformation was too dramatic, too complete, too supernatural—fear of divine

power overwhelmed them. They saw absolute proof of Jesus' authority over demons, yet rather than worship, they feared. This illustrates how witnessing God's power doesn't automatically produce faith—many respond with terror and desire for distance (v. 37) rather than trust and discipleship.

Historical Context

The phrase "sitting at the feet" was technical terminology for a disciple's relationship to his rabbi. Paul used identical language describing his training under Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Mary sat at Jesus' feet listening to His teaching (Luke 10:39). The posture symbolized submission, teachability, and the student-teacher relationship. That the formerly demon-possessed man assumed this position immediately after deliverance shows instantaneous transformation—from total chaos to ordered discipleship.

The crowd's fear reflects common first-century responses to supernatural power. Luke frequently records people's fear after miracles (Luke 1:12, 1:65, 2:9, 5:26, 7:16, 8:25). Fear (φόβος) can be either reverent awe leading to faith or terror leading to rejection. Here, the context suggests negative fear—verse 37 records they "besought him to depart from them." They preferred familiar economic stability over disturbing divine presence.

Early Christian writers noted the irony—the demoniac welcomed Jesus gladly, desiring to accompany Him (v. 38), while the townspeople who witnessed this stunning deliverance rejected Him. Origen observed that those most aware of their need (like the demoniac) embrace Christ, while those comfortable in sin (like the Gadarenes valuing swine over salvation) reject Him. This pattern continues—the gospel attracts the desperate while offending the self-sufficient.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the demoniac's posture 'sitting at the feet of Jesus' teach about the proper response to deliverance and grace?
2. How does the crowd's fear despite witnessing undeniable transformation warn against equating miraculous evidence with saving faith?
3. What does the contrast between the demoniac's gratitude and the crowd's rejection reveal about human responses to Christ's power?

Interlinear Text

ἐξεληλύθει, δὲ ἰδεῖν τὸ γεγονός καὶ ἦλθον πρὸς
they went out **Then** **to see** G1831 G1161 G1492 G3588 **what was done** **and** **came** **to**
G1096 G2532 G2064 G4314

τὸν Ἰησοῦ καὶ εὔρον καθήμενον τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἀφ'
G3588 **Jesus** **and** **found** **sitting** G3588 **the man** **out of**
G2424 G2532 G2147 G2521 G444 G575

οὓς τὰ δαιμόνια ἐξεληλύθει, ἱματισμένον καὶ
whom G3588 **the devils** **they went out** **clothed** **and**
G3739 G1140 G1831 G2439 G2532

σωφρονοῦντα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ καὶ
in his right mind **at** G3588 **the feet** G3588 **Jesus** **and**
G4993 G3844 G4228 G2424 G2532

ἐφοβήθησαν
they were afraid
G5399

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:39 (References Jesus): And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

Acts 22:3 (Parallel theme): I am verily a man which am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, and taught

according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward God, as ye all are this day.

Psalms 51:10 (Parallel theme): Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

1 John 3:8 (Evil): He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Luke 8:27 (Evil): And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.

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