



WEPC Lectionary Project: *Union with Christ*

West End Presbyterian Church is using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship and our personal and family devotion. This project is part of WEPC's 25th Anniversary Year and will run from December 2018 through November 2019. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

To learn more and subscribe to a daily email of Daily Scripture Readings, visit www.wepc.org/lectionary.

Sunday, June 23, 2019

The Second Sunday after Pentecost: Ordinary Time

[Isaiah 65:1-9](#) *The LORD is Judge*

[Psalm 22:19-28](#) *The LORD is King*

[Galatians 3:23-29](#) *You Were Baptized into Christ*

[Luke 8:26-39](#) *Jesus Casts Out Demons*

Monday, June 24

[Psalm 64](#) *Preserve My Life*

[Job 18:1-21](#) *Wickedness*

[I Corinthians 1:18-31](#) *Wisdom & Strength*

Tuesday, June 25

[Psalm 64](#) *Preserve My Life*

[Job 19:1-22](#) *Broken*

[Ephesians 2:11-22](#) *One New Man*

Wednesday, June 26

[Psalm 64](#) *Preserve My Life*

[Ezekiel 32:1-10](#) *Like a Dragon Destroyed*

[Luke 9:37-43a](#) *Jesus Rebuked the Unclean Spirit*

Thursday, June 27

[Psalm 16](#) *You Are My Lord*

[Leviticus 9:22-10:11](#) *Fire Consumed*

[II Corinthians 13:5-10](#) *Examine Yourselves*

Friday, June 28

[Psalm 16](#) *You Are My Lord*

[II Kings 1:1-16](#) *Fire Came Down*

[Galatians 4:8-20](#) *How Can You Turn Back Again*

Saturday, June 29

[Psalm 16](#) *You Are My Lord*

[Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43](#) *A Fire is Kindled by My Anger*

[Luke 9:21-27](#) *Profit & Loss*

How Much Jesus Had Done For Him

This week, Joe Brown preached on [Luke 8:26-39](#)

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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

What is the purpose of this text? To reveal the ultimate power of Jesus.

This text helps to answer the burning question: **Who is this guy?**

A related question: **Where is this power?**

Who are the demons?

- Matthew 25:41 – hell is being prepared for Satan and his angels (demons)
- Revelation 12:7-17 – the story of Satan's fall and his (and his demons') pursuit of Jesus and Christians from now until the final judgment. (But in apocalyptic language) – a third of the stars (a third of the angels?)
- Isaiah 14 – poetic imagery of the destruction of Babylon (but also of the final defeat over Satan)
- Luke 9:1 – send out the 12 disciples with power over demons. Then later, in Luke 10, after he sends out the larger group of 72 disciples to do the same thing, they return with joy reporting what they did and Jesus says: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."

Are demons active today?

What do demons do?

- They oppose Christ and His people – His Kingdom
- They oppose the growth of Jesus' kingdom and the sanctification of His people.

Doug Milne: "People in the western world and churches often play down the force of demonic evil or explain it away under another name... We can go beyond the limits of Scripture by attributing too great knowledge and power to evil angels. Certainly they form a real and constant threat to Christians and their work (1 Thess. 2:18) but they are not supreme and God includes them in his eternal plan for good (Rom. 8:38-39). Christians must arm against them but not be paralyzed by their attacks (Eph. 6:10-18)."

Mark Strauss: "Jesus offers an analogy (in Matthew 12): Satan is like a strong man trying to protect his estate, but Jesus is a stronger man who attacks and plunders Satan's property. Through his exorcisms, Jesus is attacking and taking back Satan's "possessions," those people over whom Satan has gained control. The exorcisms are proof that the kingdom of God is engaging and overwhelming the kingdom of Satan."

Luke 10:19-20: "19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. 20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The text:

Unclean territory – tombs, gentiles, pigs, demons

We don't know the man's name.

What do the demons do?

James 2:19 – "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!"

Demons' request

Why the pigs?

Mark says 2,000 pigs

Mark Strauss: "When the Pharisees accuse Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan (in Matthew 12)... it is not the power of Jesus to cast out demons that is questioned, but the source of His power."

Jesus: "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matt. 12:28).

1. Herdsmen's response?
2. Townspeople's response?

Doug Milne: "Instead of weighing the evidence in Jesus' favor the local people gave in to natural superstition and dread of the supernatural. They were blind to the moral meaning of what Jesus had done and the promise he gave of restoring other lives. They were more comfortable with the familiar than with the unexpected; the new thing that Jesus had done challenged their thinking in uncomfortable ways.

"Many people prefer a busy or humdrum existence to any challenge to think for themselves and the change that Jesus brings. Talk of the gospel makes them uneasy; they refuse to venture beyond what is familiar and routine. Sadly, like the Gerasenes, Jesus may grant their desire and leave them to their world of sandcastles."

Life at the bottom of the cliff

Jack Miller: "Your life must have a death in it if it is to go anywhere. The greatest thing hindering revival at [WEPC] is the way we tend to run away from our own death. The cross can be evaded only so long. Then if we keep away from it we begin to create our own deaths, and we die thousands of times over, killed and re-killed by our anxieties." - *The Heart of a Servant-Leader: Letters from Jack Miller* (P&R, 2004), 230

Jesus gets into the boat to leave, and the man begs to go with him.

3. The healed man's response?

*To hear sermons and access past study guides visit www.wepc.org/archivedsermons
Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org*