



# Sunday 14th January 9am

## Luke 8:40-46 Faith in Jesus; Testimony

Believing that God exists is not the kind of faith that saves. Believing that God is real, never saved anybody. Even demons believe that God is real. The kind of faith that saves is one where we believe IN Him; trust IN Him; have faith IN Him; be IN Him and have Him be IN us.

And the mark of being a Christian is by the filling of His Holy Spirit. And if the Holy Spirit is IN us, He will transform us and make us more like Him.

In the bible reading today, Jesus encounters a man who has a different sort of spirit—an evil spirit—in fact he has a multitude of evil spirits. This man had been possessed by demons. How did this happen? We are given a hint by the fact that there are a herd of pigs nearby. You'd never run pigs in Israel because they are considered unclean so this man must have been in gentile country—and gentiles had a multitude of gods/idols (paganism). And God's word tells us that there is only one God and the worship given to any so-called gods is the worship of demons. So to be involved in demon worship is the exact opposite of what it means to worship God and be filled with the Holy Spirit—demon worship leads to demon possession.

When a Christian repents of sin and surrenders their life to Jesus, through the blood of Jesus, our sins are forgiven; we are created anew and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. The Holy Spirit transforms us, making us more like our Lord and master Jesus Christ.

The opposite of that, is when a person embraces sin and surrenders themselves to a life of sin—in doing so, they embrace the evil one. They become more and more like their master—the evil one. When a person surrenders themselves to evil, a demon can be given a foothold in their life. The more control that is surrendered (often through the worship of demons or the use of mind-altering drugs) the more control the evil one takes. And it is a destructive control as seen by the man in today's reading who had been possessed.

The Good News—Jesus has power over demons. On the banks of Galilee this day, a mighty battle took place. The ONLY Son of God up against a LEGION of demons. And the demons screamed in terror because they knew EXACTLY who they were up against. And Jesus didn't shy away from this battle. In fact, he crossed the lake to get there and bring the battle to them.

And what a comfort it is to know that the Lord Jesus Christ is able to:

- deal with the worst of sins/evil
- He is able to take the broken and restore them
- He is able to bring a person to rightness of mind

The power that Jesus Christ displayed on this day demands a personal response. Jesus asks of us the same response he asked of the demon possessed man— "Be where you are and declare how much God has done for you".

### Bush Disciples January Roster 2024

Date	Opening Prayer	Kids Story	Bible Reading	Communion	Closing Prayer	Supper
14/1	D&P	D&R	Ann	J&S	B&R	Shared
21/1	B&R	D&P	Ann	D&R	J&S	Shared

28th January—worship at St.Margaret's 5pm

### Before



### After



Jesus is in the business of extreme makeovers. Jesus has the power to transform our lives!

### Order of Service 14th January 2024

Welcome and Opening Prayer	David & Pauline
Song	Here I Am To Worship
Children's Story	Dave & Ruth
Bible Reading	Anne (Luke 8:40-56)
Message	Faith in Jesus
Song	Have Faith In God
Communion	Justin & Sarah
Song	He Will Hold Me Fast
Closing Prayer	Bruce & Rhonda
Benediction	Now Unto Him