

## ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** ***International Bible Lessons***

**Luke 8:26-39**

**Sunday, April 17, 2016**

**L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

### **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further**

#### **1. What truth did the demons proclaim about Jesus and why were they afraid of Him?**

They called Him “Jesus, Son of the Most High God.”

#### **2. What falsehood did the demons proclaim about Jesus and what might that mean?**

They proclaimed that perhaps Jesus would torture them (“torture” is unjust) — that possibility is contrary to Jesus’ moral character and a falsehood. They showed that they knew Jesus had power over them, and power to torture them, if He so chose. They used half of a truth to spread a lie about the kind of Person the Son of God is. They showed that they knew Jesus, who as Son of the Most High God, was the greatest King and had power over the king of the Abyss and demons; therefore, Jesus had the authority and power to send them into the Abyss according to His timing.

#### **3. What are some reasons the Bible teaches people not to talk to the dead or to demons?**

Jesus is the Son of the Most High God, and we are not divine. Therefore, even as believers, we can be deceived by demons, the world, and our own flesh (all of which the devil can use to deceive and tempt us). Demons can speak through people, and deceive people into thinking they are speaking to a dead person, that is actually a demon speaking through a demon possessed person. Then, they can deceive them into doing and thinking what should not be done or thought. Demons can afflict and persecute faithful believers; they can indwell and possess unbelievers; therefore, the Bible teaches people to have nothing to do with demons or idols.

**4. From this event, what makes you think the Abyss or hell will be a place of unpleasant surroundings and suffering?**

The demons wanted to avoid the Abyss where they would be with the king of demons and other demons forever. The king of demons might especially torture them for failing to remain in the man they had possessed. If demons do not want to go there and be with one another forever, neither should people want to go there. It is a place everyone should want to avoid. Demons will do to other demons as well as to those people who will abide in the Abyss forever things that are similar to and worse than the suffering of the demon possessed man. By grace through faith in Jesus, Jesus can free people from demons. Because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, believers in Jesus can also be freed from the fear of ever going to the Abyss where demons fear to tread.

**5. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate His compassion?**

Jesus showed mercy to the demons by not sending them to the Abyss. Jesus showed compassion to the man possessed by demons by crossing a sea to free him from demons, by freeing him, by putting him into his right mind, by clothing him, by sending him home to his family who probably loved him and needed him, by wanting him to tell his family and others about how much Jesus had done for him. Therefore, the man experienced the joy of obeying and serving Jesus, and many could be saved through his teaching about Jesus. Jesus showed His compassion for those who sent Him away in fear, because through the man's testimony He might free them from fear and save them.

*© Copyright 2016 L.G. Parkhurst, Jr,  
You may reprint or reproduce Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further  
for not-for-profit use.*