

Even Demons Want to Escape Hell

International Bible Lesson

Luke 8:26-39

Sunday, April 17, 2016

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“And the demons begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss” (Luke 8:31).

Perhaps you have heard someone say that they want to go to hell, but that sounds shockingly strange since the demons, who had seen hell, repeatedly begged Jesus not to order them there. They recognized that Jesus had the authority and power to save them from hell or send them to hell, where they would be under the authority of the abusive and evil king Abaddon (in Hebrew) or Apollyon (in Greek) which means “Destroyer” (Revelation 9:11). Jesus repeatedly warned people to avoid hell or the Abyss. He revealed that hell had been prepared for the devil and demons. He warned that people would be divided into two groups, and some would be sent to hell — into the eternal fire where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:41; Matthew 13:50). Based on what Jesus revealed and demons know by experience, those who sincerely live to go to hell will discover that they made a sad and sorry choice. Jesus mercifully granted these demons their request, but they refused to repent and destroyed themselves. Since these demons had the power to so possess a man that they drove him out of his mind and he lived naked in the tombs, imagine what life would be like spending eternity with evil beings like that! But people can repent, turn to Jesus, and avoid hell: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (John 3:16, 17).

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Thinking Further

1. What truth did the demons proclaim about Jesus and why were they afraid of Him?
2. What falsehood did the demons proclaim about Jesus and what might that mean?
3. What are some reasons the Bible teaches people not to talk to the dead or to demons?
4. From this event, what makes you think the Abyss or hell will be a place of unpleasant surroundings and suffering?
5. In what ways did Jesus demonstrate His compassion?