

# Did You Get What You Expected?

(Luke 8:26-39)

- Introduction:
1. At this time of the year, we are well acquainted with giving and receiving gifts.
  2. Some of these gifts are received with great joy and excitement, while others are received not so enthusiastically.
  3. Likewise, when it comes to God's gifts, we often fail to appreciate the gifts he give us, because they aren't at all what we expected.
    - a. A Helpless Baby (Luke 2:1-20; John 1:1,14)?
    - b. A King who refused to be King (John 6:15)?
    - c. The Lord of Hosts who said to put your sword away (Mt. 26:52).
    - d. A Crucified Conqueror (John 19).
  4. He was not what we expected, but everything we needed.
  5. In today's lesson, we'll examine how people typically respond to the "gift of Jesus."

## I. The Setting

- A. Jesus had come to the land of the Gadarenes (Luke 8:26).
- B. There he met a demon possessed man (Luke 8:27-28).
- C. Jesus cast the demons out of him (Luke 8:29-33).
- D. The people respond to what Jesus did (Luke 8:34-39).

## II. The Responses to Jesus

- A. Some ran from him
  1. (Luke 8:34).
  2. There are people who want nothing at all to do with Jesus.
  3. Their response of flight is not even tempered by curiosity.
- B. Some asked him to leave.
  1. (Luke 8:37).
  2. The presence of Jesus can be a threat to what we know, the way we do things, and might be costly.
- C. One begged to go with him.
  1. (Luke 8:38).
  2. Though he did not go with Jesus; Jesus gave him a mission to spread the word about what great things God had done – and that he did!

- Conclusion:
1. God has given us a gift, one that none of us would have guessed before it was "unwrapped."
  2. And maybe we haven't made up our minds just what to do with this gift.
  3. My advice to you is to put aside all your preconceived notions and beliefs, embrace it, and proclaim to all what great things God has done for you.