

A Divine Rescue

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[0 : 00] Please be turning to Luke chapter 8. Luke chapter 8. We'll be reading in a couple minutes starting in verse 26.

! The scene we looked at last week began with Jesus' name. He was saying, let us go across to the other side of the lake.

Only a short time into the trip, Jesus fell asleep. And soon, a violent storm put the boat at risk. Jesus answered the disciples' panicked cry by commanding the wind and waves to be still.

And having stilled that, and the disciples being befuddled at that moment, Jesus asked, where's your faith?

But the disciples asked a question that I think kind of keeps going into what we're going to look at today. They asked the question, who then is this that commands even the winds and water?

[1 : 22] And they obey him. We looked at Old Testament scriptures that show that Jesus was doing what only God could do.

They're on the lake, but the journey's not over. They didn't have this rough night to go home. The storm in the middle of the lake was not the destination.

Nor will it be the only evidence that Jesus will give of his deity at this time. Jesus still wanted to go across the lake. Because he had a further purpose.

And I think this purpose is just glorious. When you see this as all part of one thing. Now, there were two incidences here. But when you see it starting from, let's go across the lake.

There's such a beauty to what Jesus is doing here. So they continued. And as they get further and further across the lake.

[2 : 36] As they got closer to the other shore. Many in the boat would know. That they were heading to a place that people talked about. People knew about the man.

Who lived in the tombs. And some. Of even what he had done. Why did Jesus want to come here?

What they're about to witness. Would be no less spectacular. Than the episode that took place. In the middle of the sea. It would again. Demonstrate. The divinity of Jesus.

But this time. It would show his authority over unseen. The unseen spiritual realm. And it would also show his willingness to exercise.

That authority. To rescue tormented souls. For his own. I think when he said. Let's go across the lake.

[3 : 40] He saw one man. And that was his goal. And we're going to look at that today. As we read from. Luke chapter 8.

Starting in verse 26. Down through verse 39. Then they sailed to the country of Gerasenes.

Of the Gerasenes. Which is opposite Galilee. 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. 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. For he had commanded.

[4 : 35] 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. Jesus then asked him. What is your name? And he said.

Legion. Legion. For many demons. Had entered him. And they begged him. Not to command him. To depart into the abyss. 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. When the demons. Came out of the man.

And entered the pig. Pigs. And the herd rushed down. The steep bank. Into the lake. I'm sorry. I read that wrong. Then the demons. Came out of the man. And entered the pigs. And the herd.

[5 : 31] Rushed down the steep bank. Into the lake. And drowned. When the herdsmen. Saw. What had happened. They fled. And told it in the city. And in the country.

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. And those who had seen it. Told them how the demon possessed man. Had been healed.

Then all the people. Of the surrounding country. Of the garrisons. Asked him to depart from them. For they were seized. With great fear. So he got into the boat.

And returned. The man from whom the demons had gone. Begged that he might be with him. But Jesus sent him away. Saying. Return to your home.

[6 : 28] 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.

Let's pray. Father. I praise you for this passage. I praise you for the. The beautiful. Beautiful picture of Jesus here.

What he was willing to do. For one of his own. I pray father. That you would make it plain to us. And that in this passage. We would see Jesus. In his divinity.

We would see Jesus. In his compassion. And we would rejoice. And be like this man. In his outcome. I pray that your spirit would help.

In Jesus name. Amen. So they've sailed across the lake. It's been an eventful time. Probably the. Wind and waves was.

[7 : 28] During the night. But we're not sure. When it was. But whatever the case was. They got to the other side of the lake. And I'm sure some of the. Disciples at that point. Peter, James, John.

And Andrew. Who were all fishermen. Were like. Yeah. We've been close to here before. We've heard the cries. We've heard the screams. And so they're wondering. What's. What's about to go on.

But Jesus went there. To see a man. And they landed the boat. And Jesus gets out of the boat. And the minute he gets out of the boat. From the city.

Or from the tombs. A man from the city. Comes to meet them. As soon as he comes off the boat. The. The. The quick steps.

Point to who Jesus is. And we'll talk more about that in a minute. But I want you to see these things. As Jesus draws near. This man who had the demons. Meets Jesus at the boat.

[8 : 26] And begins the discussion immediately. But a little about the man. Jesus went to see. It says he was from the city. But he had demons.

So he had had. A home. He had had. A place. Where he belonged. But he wasn't there anymore. Because. There was trouble in his life.

The scripture says. For a long time. Several things happened. For a long time. He wore no clothes. This man lived. Naked. For a long time.

Now we don't know. How long. A long time was. But it describes. Several instances. And things that had gone on. So. Don't think a week. Don't think a month.

Think a much longer. Period of time. This man lived. In this condition. Where he wore no clothes. I started out. This week.

[9 : 25] Trying to think through. What kind of things. This man would feel. With demons inside him. And basically. I gave that up. Because. We don't know. But I will.

Ask you to kind of. Think through this. Because. I'll base. This next thought. On. His reaction. When. When. This man. This man.

This man. This man. Longed to be with Jesus. And from that. That. Statement of his.

I'm. Reasoning. That he may not have known. Everything that goes on. Went on. While he was possessed. Christ. But he knew enough. That his life.

Was miserable. Now. Again. I don't know. If it was like a man. Being trapped inside a glass box. Could see what was going on. But had no effect on what's going on.

[10 : 21] We don't know. If that was the case. But this man. Wore no clothes. Did he feel the shame. That people would. Would mock him. In his nakedness.

Did he feel the cold. Because the nights were cold. Did he feel. He ran into the desert. Did he feel the sweltering heat.

And not be able to do a thing about it. Would he shiver uncontrollably. Because the demons made him to be naked. It says he had not lived in a house.

For a long time. Means at one point he did live in a house. And he's told later to go back to his home. But at this point he lives in the tombs. Place where people didn't like to be.

Sometimes people would bring food out. For their loved ones. Some of their. Weird thinking. They'd leave food for their loved ones. Who were dead. And probably this guy ate this.

[11 : 21] Now let me just. Preface this by saying. This area is called the Decapolis. It's the ten cities. It was a Roman province. And it was.

A place that was. Probably. A majority Gentiles. Although there were Jews. Jews there. So don't think of a vibrant Jewish community.

Think of a. Faltering. Community. If at all. Jewish. So this man for a long time. Wore no clothes. And did not live.

In the. In a house. But in the. Tomb. But it says also. He could not be controlled by men. They kept him under guard. He was kept.

Bound. Not just by ropes. But by fetters. And by chains. And scripture says that. The demons would seize him. And we don't know what all that means.

[12 : 19] Was he. Was he in a frenzy all the time. Or would it come and go. Would he be. Half sensible at times. We don't know. Whatever the case may be. He stayed where he was. And. And.

Seemed to not be able to be rid. Of the circumstance. So he was kept under guard. And he was kept. Bound. And even though he had. Fetters.

And chains. As the demons would seize him. Somehow. He was able. To break those fetters.

And break those chains. Now. I don't. Pretend to know. What goes on in demon possession. In fact. I pretty much said.

I'm not going to. Learn. I didn't look into anything. This week. It didn't. I don't think it's great. For us to speculate. But. What's here. Is to point out.

[13 : 12] That this man. Was not an. In an ordinary. Circumstance. Or situation. He was in a. Difficult place. And when the demon.

Seized him. Or however it worked out. And he broke the chains. He would then. Go into the desert. Desert. And live in the desert. For a time. Until he came back.

And apparently. They would rebind him. And refetter him. Whether the. The seizing of the demon. Stopped. Or whatever the case may be. But. It was a pitiful situation.

Scripture says. Towards the end. In verse 35. This man was not. In his right mind. And so. Probably.

The disciples. Would thought. What are we doing here? What are we doing. In this circumstance? But Jesus. Went. Across the lake. Because he had a reason.

[14 : 10] To do it. And he came. To this man. And he met. With this man. I believe. Exactly. On purpose. And before we go on.

Let me just. Ask you this. And I'm not talking about us. Being foolish. But I am going to present. This question. Would you see this person. As someone. Outside. The kind of people.

That Jesus would seek. When you think about. The people. In your area. Or in this town. Are there people.

That you would classify. Outside. Of the reach. Of Christianity.!!

this man as beyond his reach and we don't even know the full extent of what he's facing until we get a little further Jesus didn't say well I'll go out and reach fishermen and maybe on an odd day I'll save a publican and tax collector and maybe a prostitute or two but demon possession that's where I cross the line who do you say is too far it's too much to share the gospel with well as as Jesus has stepped out of the boat this man comes to meet him and there's an immediate confrontation we know uh from verse 29 most of verse 29 is a comment that Luke put in there still inspired it is God's word but it's something Luke put in there to help us to understand the situation a little better and one of Luke's comments was that Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of him so as Jesus the boat is landing and Jesus gets out of the boat at some point before the speaking happens Jesus has already commanded this demon to come out of this man before the man did or said anything

[16 : 28] I want to point out that this man did not initiate his own rescue Jesus set out from the other side of the lake and came to him and before the man could speak begins the process of deliverance Jesus sought him Ephesians 2 I'm going to read 1 to 9 and you were dead in trespasses and sins and whence you once walked following the course of this world following the prince of the power of the air the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience before I read further doesn't that sound like this man's condition following the prince of the power of the air the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience disobedience and Paul says to the Ephesians you were dead in trespasses and sins and you and I were in the same condition as this man the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh carrying out the desires of the body and the mind and were by nature children of wrath like the rest of mankind but God being rich in mercy because of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead in our trespasses

Jesus made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Jesus in Christ Jesus for by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing it is the gift of God not of works so that you may not boast you and I have a very similar backstory to this man that we're reading about we may not have known some of the things that he knew we may not have experienced some of the things that he experienced but we were under the same dominion and God exhibited the same power as he worked in your life if you know Christ as Savior he exhibited the same power to you as the awesome power that he exhibited here and so here

Jesus has crossed the lake the man has approached he has said what have I to do with you Jesus son of the or he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of him and Jesus had sought him but the man's response controlled by the demon this man fell down at Jesus' feet this tells us a few things this tells us that there is though there is a desire to resist there is no fight there is no resistance there is no strength that Jesus would have to worry about this demon Jesus we're beginning to see the light here we've seen it already in the middle of the lake but now as we're at the shore we're seeing the light here Jesus is the son of God and as he approaches this man who has a demon immediately this demon must fall down before the Lord Jesus and he does and 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 now before we go on there's a sense in which this is a demon speaking to his master to the Lord I'm not talking about master like in Satan but the God of the universe he's speaking to him and he recognizes the unworthy situation he is in even as a demon and what are you going to do to me and what relationship do we have but Jesus as he's standing there and this demon is before him he says what have you to do with me Jesus son of the most high God I beg you do not torment me all this points to the wonder of the greatness of difference between the Lord Jesus and the demon that has knelt before Jesus there's no questioning authority every command of the Lord Jesus must be obeyed and so the demon does now think through this here's a man

I'm back to speaking about the man here's a man who could do nothing to resist the demons and now we see demons who could do nothing to resist our Savior this demon cries out and desires to have Jesus leave him alone he recognizes who Jesus really was I'm sure the veil of flesh was an interesting thing but it did not keep him from seeing who Jesus really was he saw Jesus as the son of the most high God he recognizes Jesus divinity instantly and recognizes that there's no question but what he must fall before this one he could not resist the command of God and so knowing that he must do what Jesus commands then begins to bargain and try to beg to be spared from the torment that could come upon him at that time this demon knew that his judgment and torment was coming there is no talk in this demon's speech of someday avoiding judgment of beating

[23 : 30] Christ of somehow circumventing all of God's rule he knew from that time or he had known since he had been cast out of heaven that his doom was sure he knew that there was an appointed time of judgment and he begged not to be held captive until that time he recognized that the son of God is the one who had passed that judgment and inflict that punishment so in the midst of this Jesus asks the name of the demon and the demon was compelled to answer I'm going to step out of the story for just a second and pose a question I think most of the teenagers would ask right now probably a lot of the adults was Jesus God if he had to ask the demon his name yes he is and was

God but he went through this situation as a man in the world in his divinity he knew everything but he chose to operate as the God man based on what a human would see based on what a human would know and he would trust his father and the spirit to reveal to his humanity what was necessary and God always did and so he asked the name because he really wanted to know the name but I think there was another reason why Jesus asked the demon's name and that was so that the disciples and we could know what Jesus was really facing and to show the desperateness of the situation that the man was facing now we can't fathom being possessed with a demon we know from earlier in this very chapter that Mary Magdalene had seven demons cast out of her and Jesus was able to do that but until

Jesus asked this man or the demons their name his name we had no clue as to what kind of living hell this man was enduring how desperate his situation was the demon answered and said his name is Legion for many demons had entered that man now Legion is generally a term mostly used in armies and the time at that time in the Roman thinking a Legion was a term for about six thousand soldiers soldiers six thousand soldiers now some say because of the ending of the story and what we can learn from one of the other gospels it says that there were two thousand pigs that there were only two thousand demons in this man only two thousand is it six thousand or is it two thousand it really in the end doesn't matter but think of this this man was at the whim of a legion of demons and they didn't want to leave the demons then knowing they must obey

Jesus begged not to be sent to the abyss let me read two scriptures to help us with this second Peter 2 4 for God did not spare angels when they sinned but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment and also Jude chapter or Jude 6 and the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority but left their proper dwelling he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of that great day the abyss that the demons are talking about is what Peter and Jude are both talking about when angels fell there was a place made for these fallen angels some of them to be kept until the judgment day so the fall of some of the angels some of them were confined to what is often called in scripture the abyss at the judgment day all of those angels and the devil and all the angels who were not fallen angels who were not constrained to the abyss will face judgment before

Jesus Christ and at that judgment they will receive their judgment and they will be cast into the lake of fire that burns forever and ever so for those who were in the abyss it's pretty awful but they're just waiting for the judgment day when they'll hear their sentence and it'll be worse there were some demons that were left to be able to be out and about but they too at the judgment day would be judged and would be cast into the lake of fire this demon or legion is asking that they not be placed in the abyss where they could do nothing they wanted to be free until the judgment day they were denying that there was a judgment day coming they just didn't want to be bound up until then and so they tried to propose an alternative solution there was a herd of pigs nearby now many have made oh this is some awful

[29 : 58] Jews they have pigs as I mentioned this is Decapolis this is the other side it is part of the land that God gave to Israel but at that time was inhabited by pretty much mainly Gentiles and so it would not have been unusual for pigs to be there although still wouldn't have been right in God's promised land and so they asked if they could go into the pigs as I mentioned another gospel says there are two hundred two thousand of them and Jesus gave them permission and so those demons left that man and they went into the pigs and the pigs rushed off the cliff into the sea and were drowned some say that this end for the pigs caused the demons to be sent into that abyss anyway as the sea is always seen as an abyss for spirits but whether it was or not there was there a display of power initially it was a display of the demons power they had already seen it in the man and they thought it was just a demon or two or three or five whatever but now as the demons go out and go into the pig a herd of two thousand pigs goes down the hill and jumps to the death in the sea demonstrating that this was no small!

matter that this man had been possessed by this legion but it also demonstrates something else however big this legion was it did not affect Christ's authority it did not make it harder for him to deliver this man we see the immenseness of the situation but still our savior he's gone he had no problem well the result of that there was first of all the crowd's reaction there were herders that took care of those pigs and they went back into the places apparently this was a conglomerated herd and they went to the city and to the country to the places the people who owned the pigs to let them know what had happened and when people began to hear what had happened I mean can you imagine I came into the sanctuary this week and passed paced out the sanctuary he would take over three sanctuaries full of pigs shoulder to shoulder no laying down three sanctuaries of pigs to equal two thousand and that whole mob

I mean that just must have been amazing to see this whole mob of pigs run down the slope and cast themselves into the sea he cast these people into a the bible says they were seized with fear it's interesting the man was seized by the demons here the people were seized by fear we'll see it again in just a minute but the people of the land were seized by fear and it caused them to do the unreasonable thing leave sir just leave now whether they were upset about their financial loss or they whether they might have been afraid of what Jesus might have asked them their reaction to seeing the hand of God delivering this man and the severity of the situation being displayed by 2,000 pigs running off a cliff into the ocean and dying their reaction was leave we're afraid of you and the sad thing is

Jesus did he just got in the boat and left now he talked with the man but he got in the boat and left and I thought this week well maybe they were without hope then Jesus was turning his back on them but he didn't he made provision Jesus didn't turn his back on all those people who were afraid because he left a witness the memory I mean what one of us could watch 2,000 pigs run down a hill and into the sea and die and soon forget that but also there was a man who was left behind who would tell for the rest of his life what Jesus had done for him well obviously the man is delivered the

Bible says that he was healed and there's just this if you read through it you'll see that there's this contrast there's a list of things at the beginning and a list of things at the end and some that are not so obvious but there's an amazing contrast that takes place in this situation he was naked now he's clothed he was not living in a house now he's told to go home he was not in his right mind now he sits with Jesus in his right mind he was driven by demons to break chains and fetters and be driven into the desert now willingly sitting at Jesus' feet as a disciple had asked to do had asked what would you have me what do you have me to do what

[36 : 18] I'm trying I'm getting it all when the demon says what do we have what do you have to do with me there I'm getting it right he went from saying what do you have to do with me as a demon possessed man to a man who says Lord I want to go with you wherever please take me with you he once was once a testimony to the brokenness of sin and of bondage to demons now is a testimony of what Jesus the son of God has done for him all this because Jesus wanted to go across the lake now the big thing that we always see is a big thing that we ought to always see the lake the middle of the lake and the scene amongst the tombs are supposed to get us to see this is

God a God that no one can mess with a God who has authority over wind and waves who just by saying a word calms the wind and calms the waves and then has the ability to cast out a legion of devils from one single man and to totally transform that man yes we're to see this but I want you to remember that before it all started he said let's cross over the lake and he had a purpose from the very beginning yes it was to display his divinity it was to teach his disciples but he had a man in mind when he left and he wasn't going to be thwarted he wasn't going to be thwarted by anything now he didn't see the wind and waves as that which would thwart him he trusted his father but the disciples would sure be in a situation that would say oh look this situation is turning terrible we ought to go back but he trusted his father and would not be stopped by wind and waves to rescue one of his own and then when he meets there how vicious would the situation be as he steps out of the boat and the person you come to rescue the first thing they do is they bark in your face what do you have to do with me don't torment me before the time

I don't want anything you have I don't want to be in submission to you I don't want I don't want I don't want but he set out from across the lake with his eye on that one man and wouldn't be stopped by a man who says what do you have to do with me and he delivered that man from 12 or 2000 demons at least Jesus is the son of the most high God he has bound the strong man that's something we're going to look at in Luke 11 we're going to talk more about this the fact that Jesus has bound the strong man and the strong man that Jesus is referring to in Luke chapter 11 and in the other gospels is Satan and all that Satan would do to oppose God's work Jesus binds a strong man and he spoils his good goods and this man is one of those goods it's one of those things that Jesus cherished it's one of those things that was his and I will have mine and he will not let the devil or anything else keep him from his own beloved we read it last week

I'll read part of it this week Romans 8 38 and 39 for I am sure that neither death nor life nor angels nor rulers nor things present nor things to come nor power nor height nor depth nor anything else in all creation we be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord nothing will keep Jesus the son of God from rescuing those that are his he would not be stopped by a storm he would not be stopped by a demon possessed man who wanted nothing to do with him he would not be stopped by a legion of demons all these things submit to the sovereign rule of God so that he can rescue those that are his and I hope you remember that passage from

Ephesians it isn't just this demon possessed man that Jesus has been willing to exercise his power this is you and this is me if we have trusted Christ the son of God from heaven looked down and says I'm going down there because I have people to redeem and in doing that he's displayed his divinity but nothing is keeping him from getting his beloved he has spoiled the strong man and is spoiling him praise God if you're trusting him that's you the amazing power and demonstration of God's power for this man that people would have would have written off I'm sure they would have killed him if they could have just get him out of their sight he's just a pain he's not worth anything to anyone he is to the son of God you are to the son of God no matter how bad your life is going right now no matter what you may think you you're worth no matter what you may endure you as a child of God are worth

[43 : 04] Christ in his divinity coming down to give his life for you and he has and the last thing is the man's commission Jesus says to the man 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 how much has God done for you I hope you've listened in the past couple minutes how much has God done for you and I say this and I know I'm as guilty as all of us Jesus has left heaven for his people Jesus has taken on flesh for his people he has endured the same things we have he let himself be taken by angry men and crucified he let the wrath of God that only a divine being could endure he allowed that wrath to be poured out on himself for you what has

God done for you what can be spoken so much more then go home and tell what great things God has done for you you may say oh I don't have such a dramatic testimony you were dead in sin and Jesus did all the same thing for you that he did for this man possessed by a demon you have so much to tell let's be people who are telling now maybe you're here today and it's like the day that Jesus came across the lake for a particular and only today it's you maybe it's the day when he's here to tell you

I've come down for you I've given my life for you I've raised from the dead victorious for you which reaction will you have go away or Lord I want to be with you wherever you go we can have our sins paid for as we trust Christ as Savior so I encourage you to do that today now we're about to partake of the Lord's Supper and as we hold the bread partake of the bread we're remembering this great victory that Jesus has provided for us so we drink hold the cup and drink the cup we remember that he has bound us in a covenant with himself by doing these things by shedding his blood for us this is a reminder of what

Christ has done and what Christ has provided for all of his people it is for his people for those who have truly trusted Christ and given testimony to it if you're here and you don't know Christ let this be the day you let the bread and the cup pass until you do trust Christ there's warning in scripture that we not partake unworthily but Christian you may be struggling with all kinds of things but as you come let these things be a reminder of the victory Christ has won for you of the life that he has laid down for you and so let us partake together as brothers and sisters in remembrance of what Christ has done for us if the men will come who will help me serve this morning the Lord

Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed he took bread and he broke it pointing to what he would do for them Edgar would you ask a blessing on the bread thank you father for your love for your love for Christ we need your God and we remember greatness and sin spirit forget and sing your song die for and live life amen as the bread is distributed the piano will play and you're free to sing quietly or just to be quiet and pray as the bread is distributed put in put in

[49 : 25] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you. Thank you. Let us eat together. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Mark, would you ask the blessing on the cup?

[51 : 43] Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Thank you, Lord. Remembering where we once were, Lord. And what a difference the blood of Jesus Christ has made to cleanse us, to redeem us, to save us from sin to death and evil, Lord.

We stand before you in awe of your power and at the same time love and mercy. We thank you, Lord. We thank you, Lord.

We need you, Lord. We love you. We praise you. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Thank you. Thank you.

Thank you.

[53 : 27] Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you.

[55 : 57] Thank you.

Help us as we go from this place to lift his praise in Jesus' name. Amen. We're going to sing 301 as we close. Join all the glorious names of wisdom, love, and power that ever mortals knew, that angels ever bore.

All are too poor to speak his word, too poor to set my Savior forth. Let's stand together as we sing 301. Amen.