



Banishing an Evil Spirit

Luke 4:33-36

Algie stood at the hangar's entrance with his binoculars in hand. He scanned the sky searching for Mumsy's plan on the horizon. Her plane was nowhere in sight, but he did notice a strange plane circling the island. When it veered towards the runway, Algie quickly took cover behind a metal trashcan. He heard a crash and peered from behind the can to see a short round little man straightening his cap and brushing off his Scottish kilt.

As the smoke cleared, Algie heard the man muttering, "Saints alive! That was quite a drop! Lucky for me I landed on me head!"

"Popsy? Popsy? Is that you?" Algie rushed toward the little man with great excitement. "What are you doing here?" he asked.

Popsy replied in his thick Scottish accent, "I missed me beautiful bride and me two favorite boys! So I came for a visit! Come give your old Popsy a hug! I'd know you anywhere, Chauncey!"

Algie replied patiently, "I'm Algie,"

"Of course you are and don't you forget it either! Now where is my wee little Chauncey? He must be here somewhere," Popsy peeked around the corner of the hangar and asked, "So then, where is Chauncey and me beautiful bride?"

Algie answered, "Chauncey and Mumsy are with 800 Pound Gorilla."

"What?! An 800 Pound Gorilla," Popsy's voice boomed. "Where is he? Where is he? I'll wrastle him to the ground! I'll tear him limb from limb if he hurts my sweet little Mumsy!"

"Calm down, Popsy! They're safe!" Algie tried to reassure him, "800 Pound Gorilla is our friend."

"What? You're friends with an 800 Pound Gorilla?" Popsy's voice grew louder.

"Yes, Mumsy and Chauncey are giving him flying lessons," Algie reported.

Flustered, Popsy asked, "You're friends with an 800 Pound flying Gorilla?!"

"Better to have him as a friend than an enemy," Algie replied. At that point, Popsy and Algie burst into laughter and gave each other a big hug.

"Aye, you're right about that, laddie!" Popsy patted his son firmly on the shoulder saying, "Why, I've certainly faced my fair share of fierce beasts in my day!"

Algie nodded. "Popsy, do you remember when I was a little boy and I saw you wrestle two alligators at the same time?"

"Aye," Popsy chuckled, "I tied their tails together and they chased each other in circles for the rest of the day! Algie, do you remember when I wrestled the giant grizzly bear!?"

Before Algie could answer, Popsy continued, "He started out as an angry monster, but I held him down and tickled his belly until he said, 'uncle'. By the time I was through with him, he looked like Winnie, the Pooh!

Algie said proudly, "My Popsy's not afraid of anything, are you, Popsy?!"

"Nothin' on God's green earth," Popsy answered, "Why, one time I flew to Kuala Lumpur just so I could have a tussle with the famous Koala Bear. Usually harmless little critters, but this one missed his nap and boy was he in a bad mood! And remember that time we went on that boat ride and I wrassled with that great, big dinosaur!"

"How could I forget?" Algie laughed, "They threw us out of Universal Studios!"

Popsy agreed, "Aye, but I showed that brontosaurus who was boss! You see son, I had to SHOW them that I was in charge, but with Jesus, everyone already knows that He's the Boss!"

"Jesus is the top authority – the one in charge, isn't He Popsy?" Algie asked.

"Aye, you can say that again!"

Algie shrugged his shoulder and repeated, "Okay! Jesus is the top authority – the one in charge, isn't He Popsy?"

Popsy answered confidently, "He surely is! He has power over everything and everyone. He is the Lord God Almighty, so it was no trouble at all for Jesus to banish an evil spirit! Let me get the Bible out and show you. Popsy pulled a small, worn leather Bible from his flying jacket, and began to flip through the pages. "Ah, here we are! It's in the book of Luke. In the synagogue, Jesus met a man who was controlled by an evil spirit and the man shouted out at the top of his voice: 'Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?'"

"Wowzers!" Algie exclaimed, "Sounds like that evil spirit was afraid of Jesus!"

Popsy nodded, "As well it should be! After all, the Bible just says the demon was evil – not stupid! Evil spirits know Jesus is all-powerful – far more powerful than any of them. In fact, the evil spirit said this to Jesus: 'I know who You are—the Holy One of God!'"

"What did Jesus do, Popsy?" Algie asked.

"Jesus said: 'be quiet! Come out of him!' Then the evil spirit threw the man down and came out without even hurtin' the fella. It was a miracle!"

Algie cheered, "A miracle! Wowzers! So the evil spirit did what Jesus told it to do?"

"Aye," Popsy replied as he turned the page in his Bible. "Even evil spirits know who's the boss. The Bible says, 'With authority...Jesus gives orders and they come out.' Jesus is the highest authority—that means He is the one in charge – with the most power of all."

Algie whispered, "That's incredible!"

Popsy put his arm around Algie's shoulders and said, "Well, you know what I always taught you boys!"

"Indeed, I do!" Algie smiled, "Let's say it together, for old times sake, can we Popsy?"

"Aye," Popsy answered. Algie joined him in saying, "It's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!"

Suddenly, a plane flew overhead. "I hear an aeroplane!" Algie said excitedly.

"It's Chauncey and Mumsy! They should be crashing in any moment now! Let's get back to the hut and surprise them!"

Popsy and Algie headed down the sandy path to the hut. All along the way, they discussed everything from Popsy's latest adventures to Mumsy's flying lessons for 800 Pound Gorilla. Algie was delighted to have a visit with his dad.