

MARK 5:1-20 THE DEMONIAK AND THE SAVIOR

INTRO:

- Day after the 9 parables and storm.
- 1 JN. 3:8, He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- Matt. Tells us there were two men. But this one was prominent.
- The greetings of the demoniac to Jesus would seem to indicate him as an Israelite. Jesus thou Son of the most High God.
- Mark speaks a lot of demon activity, at least 12X
- This area of Israel was heavily populated with Gentiles.
- The poor disciples after being traumatized by the near death experience the night before in the storm now are confronted by this wild demoniac.

READ MARK 5:1-20

- THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN AND THE EVIL OF SATAN
- THE HARDNESS AND BLINDNESS OF THE COMMUNITY
- THE AUTHORITY AND COMPASSION OF JESUS
- THE DEVOTION OF THE DELIVERED DISCIPLE

5 PRAYERS:

1) Vs. 7; I implore you by God that You do not torment me.”

- The demoniac seems to call upon God to promise not to torment them.

2) VS. 10, Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

3) Vs. 12; all the demons begged Him saying, “send us to the swine that we may enter them.”

- Luke adds in 8:31 and they were begging Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. (bottomless, deep, bottomless pit.)
- They needed the permission of Jesus, and Jesus grants their request and lets them enter the pigs, but the pigs would not have it. They rush violently into the waters.
- The swine seem to have more sense and sensitivity than the men.

4) Vs. 17: Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

5) VS. 18; when Jesus got into the boat he who had been demon possessed begged Him.....

- What a beautiful and reasonable prayer. Yet of the 5 prayers this is the only one denied.

THE DEPRAVITY OF THE MAN AND THE EVIL INTENT OF SATAN: 1-13

- This man was possessed with unclean spirits. (How many???)
- The citizens of the region attempted to confine him and restrain him due to his exceeding fierceness.
- Chains and shackles could not hold him; he without fail would break them off of himself.
- He was untamable and wild.
- He wandered crying out night and day.
- Having been given up by those who knew him he lived among the tombs, he lived with the dead..
- He often cut himself with rocks, perhaps to attempt to release his inner pain, but to no avail
- He lived without clothes/naked.
- Perhaps this is why he challenged and charged Jesus.
- This demon possessed man runs toward Jesus, perhaps to do Him harm and to keep his territory. He had driven many off like this before.
- Matt. Says no one could pass by that way. He harassed and chased them all off.
- But Jesus stands firm and the demoniac quickly discerns this is no ordinary man; it is Jesus the God Man.
- The demons seem to know who Christ is calling Him Jesus, Son of the Most High God. (Also MK. 1:24 I know Who You are, the holy One of God.)
- In the previous chapter 4:41 the disciples asked, "Who can this be?"
- The demons follow up with this question; "What have I to do with You,"
 - **2 Cor. 6:14-16**
- John 10:10, Satan has come to steal, kill and destroy.
- Satan asks Jesus for mercy regarding his coming torment (Matt. 8:29) while he gives no mercy to the tormented men and women he attacks.
- He was someone's son..... He had a mother,,,, a family..

THE COMMUNITIES HARDNESS OF HEART: VS. 14-17

- The whole city and region seem to gather to see this wonder.
- The whole multitude of the surrounding region aske Jesus to depart.
- They were seized with great fear. (Phobeo, extreme fear and terror.)
- You would think the locals would rejoice for the deliverance of and from this demoniac.
- You would think great interest and revival would break out, but no they would rather have Jesus sent away. (vs. 17)
- Perhaps they were afraid Jesus would bankrupt their evil businesses or expose their own personal hidden sin.
- The demons desire to stay in the region and the citizens desired Jesus to go.
- It seems the Gerasenes would rather have their swine than their Savior. Their demoniacs rather than their Deliverer.

THE AUTHORITY and COMPASSION, LOVE OF JESUS: Vs. 18-20

- The timing of Jesus.
- Jesus has absolute authority of the Satan and his demons. He but commands them to come out of the man and they must obey, Jesus asks him his name and he must reply. (Vs. 8, 9)
- What is your name Jesus asks, Legion for we are many.
 - The demon names confesses himself to be "Legion; for we are many. ("a Roman legion usually consisted of 5- 6000 men.)
- Matt. Adds, (8:29) "have You come to torment us before our time?"
- The Satan and the demons know they have a short time and that their judgement awaits them into the abyss of torment forever. (Rev. 20:10)
- The demons need Jesus' approval to enter the swine they cannot go on their own. (vs. 13)
- Behold the love of God for this man is found sitting at the feet of Jesus, in his right mind and clothed. (VS. 15)
- Oh what wonders Jesus will do for us if we but surrender.
- VS. 19 Jesus reveals what He had done for the man, "tell them what great things the Lord has done for you and how He has had compassion on you." ("to have mercy, to show kindness)

THE DEVOTION OF THE DELIVERED DISCIPLE:

- Jesus commissions the man to go to his home and friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for him and how He had compassion on him. Compassion:
- This delivered man now set free desires to become a disciple of Jesus and follow Him.
- No wonder he desired to follow Jesus. Oh how he must have loved Jesus for whom much is forgiven loves much.
- Perhaps also what horror and dread may have lurked in his heart and mind as he thought of the possibility of relapse into his past inward hell.
- The return of the demons and he once again would become a monster.
- The safest place for him would be abiding in the will of God and his soul being occupied by the living Christ,
- His soul is swept clean by the word of God; it is occupied by obedience to his Savior and Master Jesus. (Mt. 12:43-45)
- But Jesus denies his request and commissions him to evangelize where he had formally lived. To bloom where he was planted.
- He is an example of the parable in MK. 4:21, a lamp is not to be put under a bed but on a lampstand. This former satanic slave is now the servant of Chris and must go back to his home and shine for Jesus, testifying of the power and authority of Jesus the Son of the Most High.
- This new disciple obeys Christ immediately.

- **The former demoniac and tormentor of the region goes home to Decapolis and successfully proclaims all that Jesus had done for him for “all who heard marveled.”**
- **Perhaps what delivering 2 possessed crazy demoniacs could not do in wakening the blinded hearts of these countrymen this delivered mans’ continued witness and testimony could do.**

CONCLUSION:

- **Christ commands unclean spirits, but pleads with the hearts of men.**
- **Like the Gadarenes we too can reject Him and send our Savior away, but at what an awful cost, for what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**
- **This poor delivered disciple did not have a degree in theology, or years of schooling in Christianity, but Jesus sends him out, back home, equipped with the one thing most valuable, his personal testimony of what Christ had done for his soul.**
- **This was real, this was powerful, this was enough.**
- **His testimony was effective for all men marveled, and the welcome denied to Christ at this time was given later.**
- **For Jesus came back to this area again. MK. 7:31-8:9 See 8:1 Perhaps fruit of this man’s ministry.**
- **In the years to follow a very large church was gathered in this district and perhaps believers in Damascus, whom Paul had come to persecute had a trace back to this man seeing Damascus was on of the 10 cities in Decapolis.**