

Community Group Study - Winter/Spring 2018

Mark 5:1-20

Theme: Gospel Partners Are On a Mission

Introduction to Winter/Spring Study: Gospel Partnership

This semester we're doing a study on "Gospel Partnership" that ties in with our preaching series on Philippians. Paul thanks the church in Philippians for their "partnership in the gospel" (1:5). Today, our relationships in the church are still built on this "gospel partnership." We'll explore the foundation of that partnership in the first two studies, the goal of the partnership for two studies, and then some practical help for relating to one another as gospel partners.

Study Overview

When we become "gospel partners" we become "partners" with Jesus in his mission to make disciples (Matthew 28). This doesn't mean we're equal partners by any means! Jesus does all the work of salvation. But we're "partners" in the sense that we take up the work (the "family business" of Jesus' family) and that Jesus gives us a part to play in the work. Tonight we're going to learn about this work of mission as we look at the example of how one man was invited into this work.

Text

1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.[a] 2 And when Jesus[b] had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. 3 He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 4 for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. 6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. 7 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, 12 and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." 13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

14 The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed[c] man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. 16 And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. 17 And they began to beg Jesus[d] to depart from their region. 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might

be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Questions

1. In verses 1-5 we learn how terrible a state this man was in. While none of us have been in as desperate a condition as this man, we still do share some similarities with him before meeting Christ? How are we similar to him? (i.e. bondage to sin, cut off from God, etc.)
2. What do we learn about who Jesus is in verses 7-13? (To be more specific: What do we learn about Jesus' character? What do we learn about his power?)
3. In verses 14-17 there's a strange reaction to Jesus? Why does this happen?
4. What do you think was going on in verse 18 that he "begged him that he might be with him"?
5. What did Jesus tell this man to do and why? How was this man "qualified" do something like this?
6. What was the content that this man was to deliver to others? How does this compare with the content of the gospel message?
7. What was the result of this man's proclamation in verse 20? Why did people "marvel"?

Application

- What would it look like for us to "tell how much the Lord has done for us" in our daily lives?
- What are some common reasons we don't tell others about Jesus and what he's done in our lives? How might this passage address some of those reasons?
- There are two very different reactions to what Jesus does in this passage--how might people respond similarly when we bring up Jesus?
- This passage highlights this man on mission alone but most of the New Testament shows us that mission typically happens as we work together with other Christians. How would being on mission *with* other Christians be helpful in light of all this?

Prayer

- Spend time thanking God for our own salvation
- Spend time praying for specific people that God has put in our lives that we want to tell about Jesus
- Pray for anyone in the group who feels fearful or inadequate with sharing their faith