

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ**

### **The Demoniac of the Gadarenes**

Last time...a great tempest/storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee and an important question:  
“What manner of man is this?”

This time...Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment at the end of a very busy day to help answer that question  
We will be in Mark 5, Luke 8, and Matt 8

#### **Mark 5**

v1 they came over unto the other side:

Just as Jesus said/promised in Ch 4:35...the passed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee

There was that (foreknown by Jesus) matter of attempted murder to deal with during the journey, which Jesus allowed to make the connection in the minds of His disciples between His teaching on the Kingdom of God and the King of that kingdom

But they did in fact pass over the Sea of Galilee to the eastern shore and the region of the Gadarenes

This very busy day for Jesus continues; it is late in the day – near nightfall

v2-5 there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit:

When Jesus got in the boat and said, “Let’s go over”, He was going to keep the two appointments left on left on His busy schedule that day

The 1<sup>st</sup> appointment was with the prince of the power of the air out on the lake

This is His 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment – a demon-possessed man on the eastern shore, who met Him immediately upon Jesus and His disciples landing ashore

This man

- was a social outcast, due to his demon-possession
- could not be restrained/controlled due to his superhuman strength
  - repeatedly chained and shackled hand and foot but he pulled the chains apart and broke the “handcuffs”
  - an “unholy-Samson”
- lived in the caves there along the cliff of the central eastern shore
- tormented 24/7...screaming and shrieking
- suicidal...cutting/mangling himself with stones (hard, sharp basalt)

A very pitiful sight...if one looks with the loving eyes of God

A terrifying sight...if one looks with the fearful eyes of man

Remember...the turning point in His ministry (Mark 3:22-27), from teaching directly and plainly to teaching in parables the first of which were the Kingdom Parables on this day

This 2<sup>nd</sup> appointment is not only for this pitiful man but also to “drive the point” home in the hearts and minds of His disciples regarding His Identity... the strong King of the Kingdom of God

v6 saw Jesus...ran and worshipped:

Jesus has not visited the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee until now

Does this man recognize Jesus from afar off, does he know Who Jesus is such that he would run (not walk) and worship Him?

No

But the demons most assuredly know Who Jesus is

Earlier, Mark 3:11

And now in the Gadarenes the evil spirits

- come running TO Him, not FROM Him (no hiding from!)
- to worship (prostrate before) Him, not mock or attack Him

The absolute power of the Creator God draws them to Jesus

Their fear of Him and their known inferiority to Him puts them

“on their face” in utter subjection/homage

v7-8 Son of the most high God...torment me not...Come out:

Jesus sees the demons inhabiting this man’s body, He needs no introductions.

The demons need no introductions either – they KNOW Who Jesus is

Jesus is the first to speak...v8

- a. He will have nothing to do with the worship of evil spirits
- b. He came to save men, to free men from the power of Satan unto God by faith that is in Him (faith of Christ)

The demons are now the ones who are fearful and tormented and screaming...

The demons’ response to the Lord’s “Come out of him!” is v7

The demons know

- Jesus’ name (unspoken, Jesus did not introduce Himself)
- Jesus’ Identity – the Son of the most high God
- Jesus’ absolute authority over them
- their “end”, their defeat
  - adjure...promise me
  - by God...The Authority (not their boss Satan)
  - torment me not...what awaits them for all eternity

The disciples are witnesses...this dialogue should connect in their minds the miracle they witnessed on the Sea (calming the winds and the sea) and go a long ways toward answering their question in Ch 4:41

v9-10 Legion...not send them away:

“Identify yourself, make yourself known (to the man and My men).”

Who speaks?

Not the man but the “spokes-demon”, the gang leader

“My (singular) name is Legion, for we (plural) are many.

I (singular) implore You to not send us (plural) away.”

v11-12 great herd of swine:

What does the presence of pigs tell us?

Jesus went to Gentile territory to keep this appointment

Pigs are unclean, according to the dietary law in Leviticus, so this is not Jewish land or people

The many demons cry out to their Creator that He send them

- they cannot go unless He sends them
- they must obey Him

to inhabit the pigs vs “away out of the country”

v13 Jesus gave them leave:

Jesus’ will is done (v8) and the demons must obey

James 2:19 even though they do not submit to His Lordship

Jesus sends Legion and his gang into the pigs...

numbering 2000, an expression of wealth vs number of demons

(Pigs are unclean...would Jesus send them if this was a herd of sheep? No!)

The pigs are immediately “freaked out” by the invasion of the body snatchers

Terrified, they run violently down the hill/mountain (no mention of a cliff), and into the Sea of Galilee where they drown...

- panicked pigs perish
- deviled ham
- mass sooie-cide

Whether man or beast...fear and violence are the devil’s M.O.

When the pigs perish, where do the demons go?

“away out of the country”, contrary to their desire

btw...even though the demons knew their end/defeat/torment (v7),  
they did not know the future  
Had they known in advance of this imminent mass sooie-cide, they would not  
have asked to be sent to the pigs  
Only God knows the future...the end, the beginning, and every point in between

Before we move on, picture the scene as the disciples following Jesus did:

- Survived a life-threatening storm on the Sea by the mere spoken word of Jesus, their Master
- Came ashore on the other side just as Jesus had said
- Stepped onto Gentile territory (they would have known that)
- As soon as they got ashore, another great turbulence erupts as a mad man runs at them and throws himself at Jesus' feet
- Jesus started the conversation by commanding the unclean spirit (they cannot see) to come out of the man
- The man (demons) responded by proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God and begging that He not torment him/them
- Heard a demon named Legion speak and say he has thousands of other gangsters with him...all bowing to Jesus, no match for Him
- All the demons begged Jesus to send them into the herd of pigs
- Jesus did
- They obeyed
- The pigs panicked, went wild, and charged violently out of control down the hill to their deaths in the Sea of Galilee
- Then...a sudden calm and silence...another great storm is calmed again, the sudden silence/calm again declaring Who Jesus is
- (Now, maybe...Jesus is looking searchingly right at them)

v14-17 they that fed the swine:

Not only did the disciples witness this whole powerful and frightening encounter,  
so did the pig farmers

The pig farmers, of course, had no background regarding Jesus...don't know Him  
But they

- know the demon-possessed man
- know what they saw as soon as these men came ashore
- know their total economic loss

So the pig farmers flee to spread a "PSA" about this terrible development

All who returned to the site to investigate this great loss of property

- came to Jesus
- saw the mad man, the demon-possessed man
  - sitting...still and peacefully, no longer perpetually and violently agitated
  - clothed...was not but now is, socially acceptable
  - in his right mind...sober, in possession of his faculties, clear minded
  - healed...tamed (v4)

And the people of the Gadarenes were afraid, very afraid

Fearful like the demons, not in awe like the disciples

Who has more power than thousands of demons that possessed that man?!

They were afraid...and angry

Angry because they cared more about their pigs (all dead now) than they did

- the man so tormented for so long by demons
- the Man Who healed him

They were so afraid of and angry with Jesus that they implored Him to leave their land...they preferred their pigs to Jesus

v18    come into the ship:

When “asked” to leave, what did Jesus do?

He left...He does not stay where He is not welcomed

But He will return...for He came to save men, to free men from the power of Satan unto God by faith that is in Him...

He loves these fearful and angry people so He will send to them

1. His witness (a surprising one, at that)...soon
2. His witnesses...later

he that had been possessed:

A marked contrast to the fear and anger of the people of the Gadarenes is the man who was healed of his great torment by many demons

- is grateful
- loves the Man/Son of God Who first loved him
- desires to accompany Jesus wherever He is going

2 reactions/responses to Jesus Christ:

fear and anger and “Leave”

or

love and gratitude and “I want to go with You”

v19-20 Go home...tell them:

Instead of welcoming this man into His small group of men into which He is pouring His life and revealing the mysteries of God, Jesus

- tells this man whose spiritual chains have been broken to go home and tell everyone in his sphere of influence about the compassion the Lord God of Israel had on him
- commissioned him to go as His witness to preach good news to those who did not welcome Him Personally...the man everybody in the region knew, the man healed of demon-possession is Jesus' "surprise" witness to those who insisted that He leave

The man in his right mind did as he was instructed...  
joyfully preaching Jesus Christ

- the Jewish Messiah
- the Lord God (v19)...Jesus Christ is the Lord God in the (Greek) "Ten Cities" there in the region of the Gadarenes...even to those who feared/hated Jesus because of their great material loss

## **Luke 8**

v26-29 out of the city:

Luke's account differs from the more detailed account in Mark in that the "historian" Luke gives more of the backstory:

- the man possessed by demons was originally of the city, known by many/all
- he had been tormented by the demons for a long time
- often the devil "seized" him...violent grabbing and pulling and throwing
- they of the city chained and shackled the man but, with demonic strength he broke the chains and the handcuffs
- the demons drove him into the wilderness, isolated from the people of the city
- he lived in the caves, naked and tormented

v30-32 into the deep:

Mark records that the demons did not want to be sent out of the country...  
meaning, into the deep

- the abyss
- the bottomless pit
- the abode of demons in Hades

The mindset of a demon: Better a pig than the pit!

v33-35 at the feet of Jesus:

Now the pigs are “seized” by the demons...pulled pork

A very important detail about the healed man is provided:

he is in his right mind, sitting “at the feet of Jesus”...

- the place of a disciple
- learning of Him (no record of what Jesus said to him until the multitude arrives, but Jesus never passes up a teaching moment)

v36-39 the whole multitude...great fear:

The 2 reactions/responses to Jesus Christ

1. Fear and hate...the devil's M.O.
2. Faith and love...no fear (2 Tim 1:7)

God...Jesus...Jesus is God

## **Matt 8**

v28 two possessed by devils...exceeding fierce:

Matthew, an eyewitness, tells us that there were 2 men who were demon-possessed

This is not a contradiction, simply more information

Mark and Luke focus on

- the more dominant of the 2
- the one who became a disciple of Jesus

These wild men were the devil's roadblock and traffic cops...to prevent the Gospel from going into the Gadarenes and points further east

v29 before the time:

From Mark's account we learned that the demons knew of their end/defeat

Here in Matthew's account is added “before the time”...they know there is a time appointed for eternal incarceration and torment

They do not know the exact time/day/hour

v30-32 a good way off...Go:

Mark 5:11 (nigh unto the mountains) vs v30 (a good way off from them)... not a contradiction, merely a different perspective

Jesus commands the demons to Go...and they did, but not until He commanded

v33-34 depart out of their coast:

Jesus was bad for business, He “tanked” their profits

The people of the Gadarenes were more interested in

- worldly profit than in God’s Prophet...God is too close for comfort
- their own economic good than in the well-being of the pathetic and pitiful man possessed by demons

Jesus came across the Sea of Galilee to heal and to set free this man

He cares about people, He cares not about stuff

People are more important than stuff...stuff is inconsequential

### **Take Aways**

1. Be in our right mind

- sitting “at the feet of Jesus”
- the place of a disciple
- learning of Him

The only sane place in the world gone mad is at the feet of Jesus, the Prince of Peace

John 8:32, 36

2 Tim 1:7

2. Given the 2 reactions/responses to Jesus, choose Whom you will serve with whole heart

Matt 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Joshua 24:14-15

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Choose: Jesus or the world, Life or death

- Jesus Christ is our blessed hope...man is deceitful and desperately wicked
- The political climate in this nation (world) is poisonous, hopeless
- The spiritual condition in this nation is poisonous, “mad”
- Jesus is our Healer, the Author and Finisher of faith, the Bishop of our souls



3. Understand the times to know what we should do (1 Chron 12:32)

Issachar in the days after Saul died as the nation, divided between loyalties to David vs loyalties to Saul, unified under King David

In Matt 8:28 we are told that the demon-possessed man/men were exceeding “fierce”

A Greek word that appears there and in only one other place in NT

2 Tim 3:1...as described in 2 Tim 3:2-7

Our days are characterized by the Holy Spirit as demonically fierce times...

socially, politically, spiritually

M.O. of the devil: fear, anger, hate, violence, love of money, confusion

Understand the nature of the battle

2 Cor 4:4 the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them

1 John 4:4 ALL demons are no match for Jesus Christ!

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear hath torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love

Do not fear the devil...he fears our Lord!

We are the witnesses, ambassadors, and soldiers of Jesus Christ, here and now

He came to save men, to free men from the power of Satan unto God by faith that is in Him...

He has

- told us to go tell everyone in our spheres of influence about the compassion the Lord God had on us...our personal testimony
- commissioned us to go preach good news to those who do not know Him or welcome Him Personally

That is the purpose of the Gospel Presentation class...

to speak of the love of God to those in our spheres of influence  
to a people who are fearful, angry, worshipping mammon

We are to put to good use the amazing transformation the Lord has done in us

- from a slave of Satan into a messenger of Jesus Christ
- from being a fearful and angry and agitated to being merciful, gracious, loving, and calm
- from being on the defensive to being on the offensive in the spiritual battle

Small group prayer

Closing song