

Deliverance is only needed for those who are in trouble. In Mark 5, where Jesus delivered the demon-possessed man, let us study the description of this man's life and how Jesus delivered him.

1 Description of the Demon-Possessed Man (Mark 5:1-5)

The first thing that we can observe about the man's deliverance is that he had a need for deliverance. It is like how only when a man knows he is sick would he seek for a doctor who can cure his sickness. Likewise, only when a sinner acknowledges his sins, and how severe they are, would he seek deliverance from his sins. When Jesus and His disciples met the man, he dwelt in the tombs and was possessed and enslaved by unclean spirits to do their evil biddings.

The man was found among the tombs (the place of the dead) because he was enslaved by sins, and “*the wages of sin is death*” (Rom 6:23). Second, this demon-possessed man could not dwell among men because he was dangerous. When the people tried to bind him, they could not. The demons gave this man supernatural strength to break out of chains, and caused him to be destructive to his surroundings. Furthermore, day and night, he could be found in the hills and among the tombs, crying and cutting himself with stones. Enslavement to sin is a self-destructive enslavement. Being spiritually dead, he was dead to the things of God. He did not have life, and did not know how to live. He was a walking dead man.

This is a clear picture of a man who is enslaved by sin. Controlled by his sins and lust, his life is miserable. It is a life that leads only to death.

2 Description of the Man's Deliverance (Mark 5:6-13)

Mark 5:6 tells us that upon seeing Jesus, the man ran to Him and worshipped Him. What he said in Mark 5:7 revealed that it was not done out of his own freewill, but by the demons that possessed him, and the worship they gave to Jesus was done out of compulsion. From this account, we can witness the power of God: He was able to command the demons to leave the man and to go into the nearby herd of pigs. And, thus, the man was delivered.

3 The Two Responses to Deliverance (Mark 5:14-21)

The first response was a response of fear by the farmers who witnessed Jesus casting out the demons from the man into the herd of pigs. Sadly, it was not a fear that drew them closer to God. Instead, they ran and told the rest of the town, and thus they pleaded with Jesus to leave them, even though they saw the miracle that Jesus had performed.

Such fear showed that they refused to let go of their sins and lusts, and they did not want their sins to be exposed. Thus, they responded by refusing the deliverance that God offered them.

The second response was that of the demon-possessed man who had been delivered from his sin. He responded by submitting himself to the will of God, and he desired to follow his new Master, his Deliverer. He became spiritually alive, freed from his sins.

Fellow brethren, which is your response to God's deliverance of you? May we all choose wisely. God bless.

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