Jesus Recruited A Crazy Man

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 25, 2023

Text: Mark 5:18-20 Scripture Reading: I Timothy 4:12

### Intro

1. Mark 5:1-17
   1. Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee opposite Galilee to the country of the Gerasenes – Mark 5:1
   2. The country of the Gerasenes, also known as Gadara, Gergesa, and more commonly, Gerasa, was southeast of the lake. Gadara = 35 miles SE, with a steep slope on E. bank.
   3. This was Gentile (non-Jewish) territory in the province of Decapolis (‘Ten Towns’) and was the site of ten free Greek cities.
   4. Jesus was met by a local “madman” who was crazy due to being possessed by many demons, therefore his name was “Legion.”
   5. The man’s fortune changed upon meeting Jesus.
2. Lives change for the better when touched by Christ!

#### The Demon-possessed Man

* 1. Conduct (Mark 5:2-5)
     1. He had unrivaled strength, could not be bound or restrained by men.
     2. He lived in the tombs, rather than a house – Luke 8:27
     3. Lived among the dead and decaying.
     4. He abused his body – “gashing himself with stones.”
     5. Before Christ, the madman was under the power of Satan and was engaged in unhealthy, destructive behavior.
        1. After Christ (Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35): He was found to be “sitting at the feet of Jesus.”
        2. What a change the people saw!
        3. The unrestrained man was sitting docile at the feet of Jesus!
  2. Speech (Mark 5:5-12)
     1. The man was known to scream day and night among the tombs and mountains.
     2. When confronted with Jesus, the demons inside resorted to self-preservation.
     3. The demons asked to not be sent to the Abyss (Luke 8:31) and asked to be sent into a herd of swine – the herd of swine drowned in the lake.
     4. Before Christ, the man was a screaming, raving lunatic.
        1. After Christ (Mark 5:15): He was “in his right mind” and could reason.
  3. Appearance (Mark 5:2-5; Luke 8:27)
     1. The man wore no clothes, and hadn’t for a long time.
     2. Body abused by gashing himself.
     3. Before Christ, he was a naked, wounded man.
        1. After Christ (Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35): He was found “clothed and in his right mind.”
        2. The change was remarkable and it caused fear.
  4. This man’s life changed for the better upon knowing Jesus!

#### The Former Demon-possessed Evangelist

* 1. Can you imagine the talk of the day? “Jesus once recruited a ‘crazy man’ to be one of his evangelists!”
  2. He was possessed by a whole host of demons, “Legion,” who made his life miserable.
     1. A “perfect candidate” for the “How to be a Soul Winner” class, don’t you think?
     2. Here’s what the Lord did for him: Jesus threw the demons out, and gave him his life back.
  3. Can you imagine how wonderful that must have been for this guy?
     1. Living a horrible, self-obsessed life characterized by constant pain and misery, only to have a stranger come along one day and give you the life you thought you’d lost forever!
     2. This man knew he had been given a sweet deal.
     3. Suddenly he felt a call to be with Jesus.
     4. As Jesus was leaving, the man did everything but stow himself away on the boat. He begged the Lord to allow him to go with Him.
  4. When Jesus got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged that he might go with Him.
     1. Mark 5:18-20: As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.” And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.
     2. But Jesus did not permit him. Instead, He wanted him doing these things:
        1. Go home and tell your story.
        2. Tell your friends what I did for you.
        3. Tell your family how I gave you your life back.
        4. In other words, be an evangelist, because that’s what evangelists do! (They don’t just look like what everyone thinks of an evangelist: wearing suits, screaming and shouting on TV. They don’t necessarily work full time for a congregation, or always surrounded by books and desks)
  5. Evangelists do what this man did!
     1. They go home to their friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for them, and how he has had mercy on them.
     2. Has the Lord saved you?
     3. Has He given you your life back?
     4. Has He given you a reason to live, something to hope for?
  6. Jesus turned a formerly demon-possessed man into an evangelist!

## Conclusion

1. Do what the crazy man did!
   1. Go to your friends and family and tell them what Jesus did for you.
   2. You’ll be an evangelist, one who tells good news!
2. I Timothy 4:12: Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.
   1. Timothy was also told to be an example of what a Christian is in conduct, speech and appearance (love, faith and purity, the spiritual appearance others can see – John 13:34-35) – After knowing Jesus our conduct, speech and appearance changes for the better!
3. If a former crazy man can be an evangelist, so can you!
4. Tell everyone what Jesus has done for you!
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!