

Out of the Tombs and Into the Light

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Mark 5:1-20; Matt. 8:22-34; Luke 8:26-39

B. Relate account

1. Matthew mentions two demoniacs, Mark and Luke describe one (probably the fiercest and more dominant); Mark gives vivid details and a full narrative. Luke 8:28 "I" may imply a chief of the unclean spirits.
2. The name of the demons was "Legion." A legion of Roman soldiers was 4720 men plus officers, roughly 5000. The name often meant many. Demons went in companies (Mary Magdalene - Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9)
3. Mark 5:19 - Examine the power of the compassion of Jesus

I. THE POWER OF DEMONS

A. Mark 5:2-5

- A. The demon made him unfit for society.
- B. The demon made him restless night and day.
- C. The demon filled him with misery and pain.
- D. The demon could not be controlled by human power.

II. THE POWER OF JESUS OVER DEMONS

A. Mark 5:6-13

1. The demon came to Jesus in submission.
2. Jesus could control any number of demons.
3. Jesus commanded the demons to leave.
4. Jesus controlled the destiny of the demons.

III. THE STATE OF THE POSSESSED MAN

A. Luke 8:27; Matt. 8:28

1. He lived in tombs without family and friends.
2. He was powerless and without hope; no one could help.

IV. THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

A. Mark 5:14-15 - Full restoration is given to the man

B. The spiritual benefit outweighed any physical loss - Mark 5:13

1. I believe the loss of the hogs overshadowed the restoration of the demon possessed man in the minds of the people
2. I wonder if that same spirit is manifested in Christians today

V. THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

A. They feared the Lord and pleaded with Him to leave - Mark 5:15-17

B. The spiritual benefit of one soul was more important than the social interests and comfort of the many.

C. The spiritual benefit of one man produced spiritual benefits for others

1. Mark 5:18-20

VI. LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

- A. The Lord's works have made salvation available to all men regardless of their condition or worthiness in the eyes of men. The Gospel truly is "Come as you are; Just As I Am!" - Gal. 3:26-29
- B. Jesus has compassion on all who need salvation - Matt. 23:37; Mark 6:34
- C. The Lord lets each one decide what he will do with the blessings given him.
 - 1. He did not compel the people to withdraw their dismissal
 - 2. He did not compel the man to believe and follow Him
 - 3. Many brethren love their worldly interests more than they love the Lord
 - 4. Many brethren have more regard for their material possessions than they have for lost souls.
 - 5. The Lord is often loved, believed, and followed more by people whose lives are a tragic mess than by folks who think they are well
- D. Jesus still invites everyone to come to Him; I hope that you will be honest and humble enough to acknowledge that if you are outside of Christ, you are in no better condition than the man possessed by the demon.
 - 1. Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:37