

THE DEMONIAC OF GADARA, Part 2

TEXT: MARK 5:1-20

Introduction:

1. We moved into Mark chapter 5 two weeks ago.
2. Last Sunday evening we had a special speaker.
3. Our story begins with our Lord and His disciples arriving in “the country of the Gadarenes,” which is on the other side of the Sea of Galilee (5:1).
4. When our Lord was come out of the ship, “immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit” (5:2).
5. Luke 8:27 tells us the man had devils a “long time.”
6. I mentioned two weeks ago that I am convinced we are seeing an increase in demonic activity today. It is difficult (if not impossible) to explain what is taking place in society today without believing in the existence of Satan and unclean spirits.

I. DEMONS ARE CALLED “UNCLEAN SPIRITS” (5:2).

1. We saw last time that demons are called “unclean spirits” (Mark 5:2), because they lead people into moral impurity – immorality, adultery, fornication, indecency, homosexuality, foul language, dirty jokes, pornography, etc.
2. There is a definite connection between nudity and demon-possession. Luke 8:27 tells us the demon-possessed man was not wearing any clothes. When Christians grow spiritually they are careful to dress modestly.
3. The rock music industry is demonic. Listen to this quote from Madonna, “I’m proud of my trashy image” (*The Facts on Rock Music*, John Ankerberg). She’s definitely trashy!
4. Nikki Sixx of Motley Crue said, “Our new album is raw, nasty, sleazy. I think it drips of sex.”
5. Allan Bloom in his book, *Closing of the American Mind*, said, “Rock music has one appeal only, a barbaric appeal, to sexual desire... This as a much more powerful effect than does pornography on youngsters.”
6. Not only does rock and rap music lead to immorality, it also leads to violence. Kids who listen to rock and rap music often have a nasty, antisocial, and disrespectful attitude.
7. According to the infamous serial killer Richard Ramirez (known as “the Night Stalker”), it was the AC/DC song “Night Prowler” that motivated him to murder 30 innocent people.

8. Charles Manson and his crazy, doped-up followers listened to Beatle records before they went out and killed people. They painted “Helter Skelter” (Beatles song) on the walls of one of their victims.
9. It has been well documented that many teenagers have committed suicide after listening over and over to rock songs that encourage young people to kill themselves.
10. Rock music leads to drugs, false religion, depression, and even suicide. Rock music also leads to immorality. Many teenage girls have gotten pregnant out of wedlock listening to sensual rock music.
11. Rock and rap music is unacceptable for the Christian who seeks to be pure and holy. First Peter 1:16 says, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.”
12. You cannot live for God and listen to the devil’s music. This kind of filthy “music” is leading millions of young people straight to hell.

II. THE POWER OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO DELIVER FROM SIN AND DEMONS

1. This poor, wretched, demon-possessed man immediately recognized who Jesus is – “thou Son of the most high God” (5:7).
2. This should come as no surprise to those of us who know the Bible. James 2:19 says, “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”
3. Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man (5:8). Only Jesus, or a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit, can command an unclean spirit out of a man.
4. In the book of Acts, we read in chapter 19, verse 13, that “certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them” to cast out an evil spirit. They were unsuccessful (19:13-20).
5. But in Acts 16:18 we see that the apostle Paul said to the unclean spirit, “I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And we are told that the demon came out the same hour.
6. And whenever our Lord commanded unclean spirits to leave, they left. In Mark 5:9, our Lord asked the demoniac, “What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.”
7. Our Lord cast the devils out and they entered into a great herd of swine. Mark 5:13 tells us there were about 2,000 pigs in this herd.
8. These swine would rather drown in the lake than live with devils (5:13). One preacher put it this way: “Apparently a self-respecting hog, unlike some people, would rather be dead than demon-possessed!” (G. Coleman Luck).

9. Consider this: Two thousand hogs could not hold the devils (6,000 soldiers in a Roman legion) that had possessed one man!
10. Now look at the man that had the devils cast out of him. He is sitting at the feet of Jesus, “clothed, and in his right mind” (5:15).
11. When a sinner gets truly saved, he will sit at the feet of Jesus, he will put some clothes on, and he will be in his right mind.
12. Beloved, Jesus is the only one who can help a lost soul like this, enslaved by sin, out of his mind, driven by devils naked into the graveyard. Only the Lord can save sinners from Satan’s grip.
13. Psychiatry cannot help them. Education cannot help them. Money cannot help them. The government cannot help them. Religion cannot help them. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can help them (5:15, 18).

III. THE JUDGMENT OF SATAN AND HIS FALLEN ANGELS

1. Notice what the unclean spirit through the lips of the man said: “I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not” (5:7). Matthew tells us the demons said: “Art thou come hither to torment us before the time?” (Matt. 8:29). What time? The time of judgment.
2. Revelation 12:12 says, “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”
3. Satan knows his judgment is coming. His fallen angels know their judgment is coming. But many sinners live as if there is no judgment coming. They are in for a big shock!
4. This legion of devils knew that Jesus will soon sit on His throne of judgment, and they know they will soon be cast into hell. But they do not know when that hour of judgment will begin.
5. Luke 8:31 says, these devils feared that our Lord was going to cast them “into the deep,” the abyss, the bottomless pit. They know they will be going there someday and they are looking for an extension of time.
6. There’s a day coming when Satan and all his fallen angels will be cast into the lake of fire. And there’s a day coming when all lost sinners will be thrown in there with them.
7. “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).

CONCLUSION:

1. We have been looking at this demon-possessed man, the demons that left him and entered into the herd of swine, and of course, the Lord Jesus. But we have not considered the other Gadarenes.
2. What was their reaction when they saw this wonderful conversion? Did they fall down at our Lord's feet confessing their own sins?
3. No, in fact their response was just the opposite. They told our Lord "to depart out of their coasts" (Mark 5:17). Isn't it amazing that sinners are very comfortable around devils and pigs, but very uncomfortable around the Son of God?
4. They would rather have swine (and the money the swine produced) than Jesus. (These Jews should not have owned swine anyway because this was against the law of Moses.) Some sinners do not want Jesus around because they love their sin too much; and they love their money too much; and they love the world too much.
5. What about you, unsaved friend? Will you receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour or will you tell Him to go away?
6. When they told our Lord to depart, He did (5:20a). Our Lord does not stay with people who do not want Him around. If you are not saved, then now is the time to get things right with God.