

Daily Bible Study

“The Hope of the Hopeless ~The Demoniac -Part 2”

Mark 5:1-20

April 18-24, 2010

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY – We pick up this week our text, **Mark 5:1-20** and we look at “Part 2” of “*The Hope of The Hopeless ~ The Demoniac*”. So far, in our study of this text we have seen many things; among them, the hopelessness of a soul under and enslaved in sins bondage apart from the life giving, hope giving, soul cleansing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have seen that it is Jesus Himself, the *Son of the Most High God* who as God in the flesh in His personhood has the power, majesty, and glory forever and ever. He is worthy of the worship, adoration, love, and obedience of ALL mankind and He requires nothing less than this. In this text as we see Jesus again demonstrate His awesome power over Satan, Demons, Sin and Evil we are also brought to understand that He is a loving, gracious, merciful and compassionate Savior who has come to bring salvation, deliverance, and hope. He has come to bring Hope to the Hopeless. The demoniac in our text was indeed a man without hope as He was under demonic control. We saw the incredible power of these demons and as we finished last weeks study we looked at the ferocious, fervent and passionate tenacious nature of sin that is demonstrated in these demons (*Legion*) asking Jesus not to send them into the *abyss* but rather asking Him permission to be sent into a herd of *swine* that were nearby on the hillside. We pick up our text where we left off, **Mark 5:11-13**, “*Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.*” The demons know they have to leave this man and therefore they ask Jesus for *permission* to enter these *swine*. Jesus grants their request and Mark goes on to describe the results. Let’s take a little more in depth look at the grammar and word construction of his description. Very interesting is the fact that in Mark’s inspired record and his unique style of writing, in **verse 13**, he uses in succession four aorist tense verbs (*gave, went out, entered, ran violently*) and then suddenly switches to use one imperfect tense verb (*drowned*) as he paints this picture for his readers. These aorist verbs speak of action that is not continuous but that simply took place in past time. The imperfect tense however refers to continuous action that took place in the past. What Mark does, is give us a very rapid and successive series of four still picture’s that unfold before our eyes. Then incredibly, he slows down to almost stop the scene before us. The four “stills” are: Jesus commanding the demons out, the demons then going out, the demons entering the swine, and then the swine running down the hill. Now, shifting to use the imperfect tense verb *drowned*, Mark suddenly goes from displaying still photos of past simple action to run the movie real as he shows us these *swine*, one by one in a continuous “motion picture”, choking to death *in the sea*. It is a very interesting construction in the original. Also peculiar to Mark is his seeming interest in details such as numbers; specifically here in reference to the *swine*, (*there were about two thousand*).

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Thank You Holy Spirit for the vivid and detailed accounts You have given us in Sacred Scripture that show us Your incredible, vast, creative, unsearchable, and inexhaustible mind as well as the infinite power of Your Word.

TUESDAY – **Mark 5:13** “*And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.*” As we mentioned yesterday we see the greatness and vastness of God displayed in the very composing of the text of Scripture as His infinite wisdom is revealed to us as He sees fit. In this one verse of Scripture taken from our text we run head on into what some would see as a difficult dilemma for our Lord or situation that would cause some doubt and question of His goodness and love. How and why would Jesus send these evil spirits into these *swine* which in turn caused them to be killed? Did He not know what would happen to these *swine*? God’s absolute sovereignty takes center stage here in all of its human wisdom crushing glory. I wish not to be frivolous in addressing this matter but rather attempt to help us to see that God is in absolute control of all things and is worthy of our total faith, confidence, love and trust. As Scripture says so clearly, “*Whatever the Lord pleases He does, in heaven and in earth...*” (**Psalm 135:6**) or “*All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”*” (**Daniel 4:35**). God is not obliged to field and answer questions concerning His sovereign control from His creatures. He owes no man an explanation as to what He does and why. *But indeed o man, who are you to reply against God?* (**Romans 9:20**) John Owen spoke of having “hard thoughts” about God, and in our human sinful thinking we do often think God needs to answer and give reasons for doing what He does, but this is not the case. What is the most comforting in matters concerning these and other “hard thoughts” about God is the fact that God reveals to us His character and it goes beyond our human comprehension to totally grasp. Beloved, all at the same time, God is loving, compassionate, gracious, merciful, powerful, righteous, sinless, holy and the only source of holiness to ever exist. NOTHING he does is sinful. That goes for all things; regardless of whether or not you and I can understand them either. **Habakkuk 2:4** teaches us that *The just shall live by faith* not that the just shall live by demanding God explain Himself for all that He does. Beloved, even as I write these things I pray for more faith, more trust, more strength to believe since these are real “hard thoughts” for us to wrestle with. We can’t have peace without God’s giving it to us and may we cry out to Him to strengthen us and grow us in our trust and dependence on Him!

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, forgive my sinful questioning of You done in both outright and indirect manners. Please be with me, strengthen me, and help me to have a dependence on You that is like that of Jesus in His earthly time here as a man.

WEDNESDAY – **Mark 5:14-17** “*So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart*

from their region.” As eyewitnesses of this scene *those who fed the swine* now flee themselves out of what would seem like sheer terror, fear, and amazement. They have just observed this once crazy Wildman instantly changed before their eyes and then their pigs immediately changed as well as in a frantic and frenzied mad dash they have *ran violently* down the hill and *drowned in the sea*. These eyewitnesses flee and began to publish the news of these events both in the *city* and the *country*. The maxim, “Bad news travels fast” is no new novelty. The problem was that only their selfishness and sinfulness had them seeing these events as “bad news”. The curiosity of mankind is seen in the fact that *they went out to see what it was that had happened*. **Matthew 8:34** and **Luke 8:37** speak of the *whole city* and the *whole multitude of the surrounding region* coming out to see Jesus and asking Him to depart. Why did they all come to Jesus? They, unlike many today understood that it was Jesus who was the sovereign controller of all events and it was He who had ordered and controlled all this concerning the *demons* and the *swine*. The spreading of the news by those who were watching the pigs was probably both out of fear of what they had just witnessed and also an attempt to make sure the loss of the pigs was seen as no fault of theirs but rather of this man Jesus. Sadly, we know it all too well; to “protect our pride and save our skin” we sinfully don’t seem to mind stepping on someone else in the process in order to do it. What is incredible to notice is that when the people came out to see what was going on they saw the once naked, crazy, Wildman who once couldn’t even be restrained by being chained, *sitting and clothed and in his right mind*. The man who once terrorized, screamed, streaked naked, and cut himself was now calmly sitting in the presence of the prince of peace with self control and soundness of mind.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, instead of being like those who ran to tell of the bad news of the day, may I be quicker & more fervent in my desire to spread the message of the life giving Gospel of my Lord Jesus. Help me see past my selfish desires to understand Your plans.

THURSDAY – **Mark 5:16-18** “*And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.*” We see two very different reactions in these three verses. As the story is retold to those who had come out to see what had happened, and they saw the evidence of these things before them, tragically *they began to plead with Him to depart from their region*. They didn’t offer their congratulations to the man sitting there now delivered from the grip of demonic power. They didn’t see their own selfishness exposed and offer thanks to Jesus for pointing out to them their need of forgiveness and cleansing. They didn’t even see the obvious fact that human life, man created in the image of God was far more significant than that of animals. Instead, *they began to plead* (Parakaleo)... Interesting that this is the same word used of the healed man as he *begged* (Parakaleo) *Him*... We see two opposite reactions here. One group of people wanted to be away from Jesus and His life giving blessings while the one man wanted to be nearer to Him and these God given benefits. Not only were the crowds terrified of Jesus, they were resentful toward Him. They were the crowd of today who always wants to put God on trial rather than bow the knee

of obedience and submission before Him. *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure (Psalm 2).*

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Father, by Your grace enable me to kiss the Son lest He be angry. Thank You Jesus that You bring the blessings of God to us Your people.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 5:18-20 “*And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.*” **Verse 18** informed us that as Jesus was getting in the boat the healed man who once had no hope was *begging* to come with Jesus and be with Him. The original Greek emphasizes that as Jesus is literally stepping into the boat the man is begging Him to come along. His zeal is expressed in his fervor that before it is too late, he needs to come along and be with Jesus. This is one mark of a truly saved and regenerated person; they long to be near and with Jesus whom they love and are so indebted. Beloved, if you are a Christian, you owe Jesus EVERYTHING. For that matter, even if you are not in Christ you still owe Him EVERYTHING. Incredible is the wisdom and plan of God; Jesus grants the demons request to enter the swine but does NOT grant this mans request to come along with Him; it is not God’s plan. Jesus’ plan was instead for this man to *Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.* Jesus had given this man hope and now he calls them to the hard task of taking the good news of hope in Jesus home. The man goes out and obeys Jesus and begins his missionary endeavor where Jesus tells all of us it is to begin, *at home (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8).* What does Jesus want published about Himself? That He had done *great things* for this man; namely how He had *compassion* (mercy) on him. It is significant that Jesus wants men to know that He and The Father *God is rich in mercy (Ephesians 2:4)* and also that *His mercy endureth forever (Psalm 136).* Beloved, the wrath and holiness of God seen in His judgment and punishment of sin is real, needs to be proclaimed, and cannot be avoided. But we must also never forget to proclaim that to the one who cries out under the burden of their sin (**Matthew 11:28** “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”), seeing it as an offense against God and longing to be forgiven and accepted (**Luke 18:13** “*And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*”), God will show His great love, grace and mercy (**Romans 5:8** “*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*”). Lastly, we see that this demoniac “got it”; this guy knew who “**The Lord**” was; look at **verse 20** where he goes and proclaims what **Jesus** had done for him. He knew Jesus to be God, he knew what all Christians know and rejoice in; that Jesus is Lord.

The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Give me an all consuming passion and zeal for You Oh God. Do this in me by Your Holy Spirit’s power. Help me proclaim Your goodness boldly.