

Jesus showed his power and authority over demons, disease, death, and His creation. The power of Jesus over demons is the main point of the passage.

But in the text we have the deliverance of a demoniac in Gadara. I want to focus on this man and the change that came about in his life because it parallels salvation.

There are four extremes in dealing with demons-

1. Some disbelieve their existence.
2. Others have an unhealthy obsession with the spirit world.
3. Satan and his fallen angels are not all-present, all-powerful, and all-knowing.
4. Believers can't be indwelt and possessed by a demon, but they can be influenced or oppressed by a demon.

As we closer to the Lord's return demonic activity will increase in the spirit of the antichrist, and increase in the doctrines of demons by seducing spirits.

TT- How did this maniac become a missionary? I want to share his drastic change as we progress thru our text.

I. His Condition [vv. 26-30].

vs. 26-27: He lived in the country of the Gadarenes which was a small village on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus encounters the man “He went forth to land.”

This encounter with the man occurred right after the calming of the storm and the landing of the boat on the other side.

Here Jesus meets a certain man having demons, or a demon-possessed man. This man lived in tombs isolated from society. He was in a place of the dead and the unclean.

1- Sin causes people to abide in places of the dead and unclean [bars, dance halls, casinos, X-rated movies and etc...].

v. 28b: Note the response of the demons from the man.

“What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? Demons recognize what the liberals and the cults fail to confess.

Demons believe Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, but it was not heart belief that would cause them to bow the knee and submit to His Lordship. There is a difference in admitting and submitting, between confessing and surrender.

Note the phrase, “I beg thee, torment me not.” The demons were tormenting the man but did not want to be tormented themselves. They showed no mercy, but wanted mercy shown to them.

2- Sin is very hypocritical. Abortion doctors and their slaughter houses want to be protected, but they do not want to protect the innocent unborn child. The homosexuals want tolerance, but will not show tolerance to those who believe their lifestyle is sin.

They believed Jesus showed up prematurely before his appointed time to chain them in the abyss [Matt. 8:29].

They were looking for his second coming but the first caught them off guard.

v. 29: **#3-** Sin enslaves.

The man had to be kept bound because he was a danger to society. This is what sin does; there is no peace and no tranquility. It boasts freedom but brings only shackles.

v. 30: Jesus asked him his name.

This is the only time in the gospels that Jesus conversed with a demon. He responded "legion" because many demons entered him.

A roman legion numbered 6,000, so we can see the enormity of his demon-possession. Mark 5:13 says there was about 2,000

I. His Condition (enslaved to sin walking in darkness).

II. His Change [vv. 31-37].

v. 31: They recognized the power of Jesus.

They did not want Jesus to send them to the deep [abyss, bottomless pit]. Rev. 20:10 tells us this is their place of eternal judgment. Matt. 25:41 tells us it is prepared for the devil and his angels.

vv. 32-33: The demons begged Jesus to let them go into a herd of pigs nearby. This was the first "swine time" festival. I wonder what PETA would say today. Certainly they would be more interested in the pigs than the man's deliverance.

v. 35: Why were the people afraid? Two views-

1. The people thought more of the illegal swine business than Jesus. They were more concerned about the economy than the healing of the man. They desired their possessions more than the person of Christ.

2. They viewed the healing as superstition. They were afraid because Legion was delivered [vv. 35-37]. They wanted Legion as he was. They were more frightened of Jesus than the demoniac. Jesus affected the "status quo," things were going to change and did not want change.

vs. 34-37: The response of the people

The pig owners went into the city and told what happened and the people went out to see what happened. They found the maniac sitting at the feet of Jesus in his right mind, clothed and they were afraid.

1- Note the drastic change in the man- once wandering now sitting, once naked now clothed, once in the tombs now at the feet of Jesus. When we come to Christ we have a new posture, a new dress, and a renewed mind. There is a change!

I. His Condition.

II. His Change (He was different)

III. His Commission [vv. 38-39].

2- The man wanted to follow Jesus. He was saved and now wanted Fellowship with Jesus. Jesus wanted the maniac to be a missionary and witness in his home, in his city, and country.

Do you see the parallel in salvation? We were lost and deserved hell. We have been delivered from sin and Satan. We have been forgiven and have eternal life and a home in heaven.

Now we have been changed and commissioned to tell what Jesus has done for us!