

Jesus and the Legion of Demons

Mark 5:1-20

Into the Lesson:

From commentaries or Bible margin notes what do we know of the folks "on the other side":

Of the Nationality of the People-
Their apparent primary occupation-
How do they respond to having their trade "liquidated"-

If you have access to Bible maps, locate the area believed to be the settings for this passage and the distances traveled.

Into the Word:

Reread Mark 5:1-20, "like a painting in an art gallery" and consider what might have been going through the Disciples minds after surviving an incredible storm to encounter a raging storm of another nature?

Does Luke 11:24-26 help us to understand how this man may have found himself in this condition?

Respond to Lane's comments regarding the man's alienation.

How does Mark 5:5 speak to the level of degradation that this man was at?

How does this account differ from what we read in Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39?

How do you account for the fact that even though he was spiritually alienated from God he (or the demons in him) had the answer the disciples were asking in Mark 4:41?

How does this fit with what we read in James 2:18-20?

What was the man's response after being liberated from this condition (vv.18-19)?

Into Life:

Respond to Lane's reference to the Ferguson's quote: "Men often hold on to their bondage in evil rather than yield to the pain of transformation by Christ's power and grace."

What are some of the indications that ours has become a culture that seems to embrace "hating ourselves and hurting ourselves"?

Reread Ephesians 2:1-10 as if through the eyes of:

Gerasene demoniac-

"The guy trapped in the basement in front of a computer"-

"The well-dressed businessman"-

Respond to Lane's quote, "but maybe for us we are enslaved by our niceness - or our goodness - or our smugness - but just as enslaved and just as alienated from God..."

Though perhaps not demon possession, how do we sometimes find ourselves living outside of God's will?

If left untended, are the consequences any less destructive than what we've been reading about?

How can we show the "kindness of Jesus" to those we encounter? How does this fit with the concept from previous sermons of "planting seeds"?

How does the truth that "Jesus has complete power over the demonic..." provide us with the sense of being "More than Conquerors" (Romans 8:37).

How can Romans 8 provide a springboard for our lives?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

- Romans 8:37