

An Encounter of Supreme Authority

May 6, 2018

Scripture:

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him.⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside,¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them."¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened.¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs.¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.²¹ And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. (Mk. 5:1-21 ESV)

From the Introduction:

We sometimes allow our past to keep us out of the game because we listen to the lies of Satan, reminding us of our failed past. What we often do is allow him to isolate us, then he likes to make us think we are not any good for the kingdom. The enemy seeks to steal, kill, and destroy.

Outline:

- 1) The man's _____: he was out of his mind and _____.
 - a) The people could not _____ him to help him and they were _____ of him.
 - b) The demons had _____ over this man.
 - c) What was this _____ really like without the demons.
- 2) The best _____ against the enemy is to _____.
 - a) The man ran and _____ bowed down.
 - b) Possibly the first _____ incident he had _____ in a long time.
- 3) The crowd was spiritually _____ because of the _____ of revenue.
 - a) Now the crowd had witnessed the man _____ normal and fully dressed in the _____ frame of mind.
 - b) Now this man can be _____ God wanted him to be, his response was he wanted to _____ Jesus.

Remember:

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12-13 ESV)

Reflect:

"God has work to do in this world; and to desert it because of its difficulties and entanglements, is to cast off His authority. It is not enough that we be just, that we be righteous, and walk with God in holiness; but we must also serve our generation, as David did before he fell asleep. God has a work to do; and not to help Him is to oppose Him."

- John Owen

Seek:

In the message Pastor Ken notes, in our conditions before Christ we can be so overwhelmed by things that we feel just like this man. This keeps us from being our true selves. What are some things you can begin to do this week that would free you from your past conditions? (Phil 2:12-13)

Share:

How can you share your story with others at work, home, or public places, and show how God has freed you from the chains that kept you from being what God created you to be?

Serve:

The Crowd was more concerned with what they lost. When you see others who have experienced the salvation that is life changing, how can you rejoice with them showing that we are all a family?

Pray:

This week as you pray, ask God to show you people that are not like you; that need acceptance from God, and allow God to change them by his life-changing power.