"When Hope's All Gone, Help is on the Way!"

(Mark 5:1 - 20)

Each of the three events recorded in Mark chapter five place emphasis upon the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first miracle of Christ in this passage reveals His power over DEVILS. The second story in this text calls our attention to the Lord's power over DISEASES. The final work of Christ found in this chapter magnifies His power over DEATH. In each scenario, the Scriptures show us a situation that seemed hopeless. But Christ conquered devils, diseases, and death - the three great terrors of mankind. And the Lord delivered, in turn, a man, a woman, and a child. What a Saviour! What a blessing it is to know that when hope is all gone, Help is on the way!

Our text contains a great deal of information concerning the ways and works of the wicked one. The Holy Scriptures record the story of one of the saddest conditions that a man could ever be in. The devils of Hell possessed a stronghold inside the body of this miserable maniac of Gadara. A casual observation of his condition
would suggest that the man was absolutely hopeless. However, the conclusion of this story will not emphasize the powers of Hell; it will magnify the preeminence of Hope!

*Let us carefully examine the words of Jesus Christ concerning a man who was possessed with many devils. This study will reveal some essential information about the enemy of man's soul. Our message will center around three main thoughts from this passage of Scripture:

1. The Miserable Condition of the Maniac

2. The Merciful Compassion of the Messiah

3. The Marvelous Commission of the Man of God

I. The **Miserable Condition of the Maniac**

*His Helplessness
A. He was Demon Possessed.

"And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit."

(Mark 5:2)

- The Devil loves DIRTY things!

"Demon possession is a terrible curse on an individual. Demons did not inhabit people to bless them but to curse them. The Devil's goal is harm, not help. When he first comes to you, he may appear to help you; but that is simply a disguise in order to trap you into great harm."

(J. Butler)

"We do not know how he got into this condition. Demon possession is a mysterious but very real condition, as any missionary working in pagan lands or among heathen tribes can testify. Idolatry and demon possession are often twins. Tampering with the occult, getting involved with drugs, and flagrant immorality are all means whereby evil spirits get hold of people, invade their bodies, and control their souls."
B. He had a **Dwelling Place**.

"Who had his dwelling among the **tombs**..."

(Mark 5:3)

- The Devil loves *DEAD* things!

C. He had **Devastating Power**.

"..and **no man could bind him, no, not with chains**. Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces..."

(Mark 5:3 - 4)
-The Devil loves **DESTRUCTIVE** things!

D. He had a **Desire for Pain**.

"And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones."

(Mark 5:5) -The number of **DEATH**!

-The Devil loves **DANGEROUS** things!

The idea that inflicting pain upon the human body makes a person spiritual is a **foolish lie** from the **father of lies**! Satan has deceived many blind, religious people into participating in this sinful practice. Self-mutilation is a historic doctrine taught by the Roman Catholic Church. However, there is not a single reference anywhere in the Holy Scriptures to suggest that God's people should harm their own bodies. As a matter of fact, the opposite is true!
"Sin disfigures and mutilates the body. Hence, the worshippers of Baal cut themselves (I Kings 18:28). Tattoos, the piercings of lips, tongues, and other weird piercings today by people is simply the 'cutting' and disfiguring of the body caused by sin."

(J. Butler)

All thoughts of bodily harm or suicide come straight from the mouth of Hell. Human and animal sacrifices are inflamed by the spirits of Satanic forces. The Devil is also the foul spirit influencing the modern "snake-handling" crowd. No Spirit-filled man of God would ever instruct God's people to flirt with the father of lies. If a person plays with the serpent, he is likely to get bit!

*His Hopelessness

E. His Dilemma was Pronounced.

"...neither could any man tame him."

(Mark 5:4)
We can most certainly assume that this demon-possessed maniac must have been a terrible nuisance to the people of Gadara. Every attempt to change him turned out to be a miserable failure. Human efforts to make a lasting difference in the lives of desperate sinners still fail in every case. The end result of such efforts always leaves a man in a position where there is no hope!

"The ordinary or even the harshest restraints imposed by society had failed. Locking him up was of no use. He had demonic strength, and no prison could hold him. Nowadays people would try psychology on him, but no amount of analysis and corrective therapy would do him the slightest bit of good. No man could tame him. This was not a case of mental aberration or ordinary madness; this was outright demon possession. And psychology, whether the primitive kind of olden times or the sophisticated kind of modern times, cannot cure demon possession."

(J. Phillips)

*Rehabilitation* says, "There's No Hope!"

*Reformation* says, "There's No Hope!"

*Religion* says, "There's No Hope!"
II. The **Merciful Compassion of the Messiah**

A. Jesus *Came* to him.

"And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, *Let us pass over unto the other side.*"

(Mark 4:35)

"AND they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes."

(Mark 5:1)

*Jesus *Confronted* the Demonized!

There is no doubt that the Lord Jesus Christ knew exactly who He would meet on the other side of the sea. Christ was not afraid of the maniac or the devils living inside of him. This story reinforces the Biblical truth that it is always the Saviour seeking the sinner. The miserable maniac did not go searching for the Lord, but the Lord
Jesus came to him!

"There is none that understandeth, **there is none that seeketh after God.**"

(Romans 3:11)

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

(Luke 19:10)

B. Jesus Cared for him.

If there is one outstanding truth that this passage of Scripture magnifies, it is the great concern of Jesus Christ for depraved sinners! The Lord certainly proved His compassion for this man by taking the time to deliver him from his miserable condition. It is a blessing to know that Jesus Christ offers real and lasting hope to those who seem to be in a hopeless situation!
"Jesus saw beyond the terrible wreckage of a demented and dangerous individual. He saw, way down beneath all of the conflict and confusion, a lost and desperate man."

(J. Phillips)

C. Jesus **Changed** him!

"For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit."

(Mark 5:8)

"And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine..."

(Mark 5:13)

*Jesus **Conquered** the Demons!

"And they come to Jesus, and see him that **was** possessed with the devil, and **had** the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right
mind..."

(Mark 5:15)

1. He had a New Abode!

"Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, **sitting at the feet of Jesus**, clothed, and in his right mind..."

(Luke 8:35)

The word "sitting" reveals a great contrast to the roaming around and wandering about the tombs in this man's past. Sin and Satan always make a person discontent and in need of peace and rest. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can provide a peace for our hearts and souls. The very fact that this man was now "sitting at the feet of Jesus" shows us the great change that salvation makes in a sinner's life. His entire attitude toward Christ had changed. Before his conversion, the demoniac wanted nothing to do with Jesus. But now his only desire was to sit in reverence at the feet of his Redeemer!

2. He had a New Appearance!
Before deliverance, the demoniac wore "no clothes" (Luke 8:27); but after Christ delivered him, he was clothed. This portrays the wardrobe change that takes place in every sinner the moment that they are converted by the grace of God. The rags of sin and shame are replaced by the righteousness of the Saviour!

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..."

(Isaiah 61:10)

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

(II Corinthians 5:21)

3. He had a New Attitude!
"And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, **and in his right mind:** and they were afraid."

(Mark 5:15)

Satan would love to convince the multitudes that people who follow Christ are crazy. In reality, the opposite is true. It is sin and Satan that cause the world to go mad. But when Christ comes into a person's life, their mind is restored and renewed. The Bible says that God has given us "a sound mind." (II Timothy 1:7) The person who truly knows the Lord Jesus Christ has a mind of **sanity** and **self-control**.

**III. The Marvelous Commission of the Man of God**

The heart of depraved sinners is clearly evident in our text. After witnessing the departure of the devils from the body of this person into the body of the pigs, the wicked herdsmen had seen enough of Jesus. They wanted the Lord to "depart out of their coasts." (Mark 5:17) They may have been convicted of their own ungodliness and need of redemption. Perhaps they were angry over the demolition of "their" property and the loss of "their" assets. It is obvious that they thought more of **pigs** than **people**. They cared more about **hogs** than
they did about *humans*. Whatever the case, we can see that the human heart, apart from a Sovereign work of God, has no desire for the presence of Jesus Christ. How very sad, but how often repeated!

The Lord Jesus responded to their pitiful request and prepared to leave. But before His departure, He was met with another request. This request was much different. It proceeded from a *grateful* heart, instead of a *graceless* heart. The freed demoniac ran to the boat and proclaimed his desire to go with Jesus. Such a desire should dwell in the heart of every converted sinner.

A. The **Man's Wish**

"And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil **prayed him that he might be with him.**"

(Mark 5:18)

B. The **Master's Will**

"Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go** home to thy
friends, **and tell** them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."

(Mark 5:19)

The Lord had a different plan for the man that He had delivered. Christ directed him to be a home missionary to his family, his neighbors, and his friends. He who had been a *terror* to everybody could now be a *testimony* to them. He had the scars on his body that would serve as a reminder of the kind of man he used to be. His body was once bound with the chains of sin. Now he was a living epistle to the love of Christ and the power of God. There could be no denying that a mighty miracle had taken place in his life. So while Jesus personally departed from this place, He left behind a *shining witness* to His *saving work*. It is still His desire that all of His redeemed vessels of clay would testify about the work of grace that He has performed in our lives!

C. The *Messenger's Work*

"And he departed, and began to **publish** in Decapolis how great things *Jesus* had done for him: and all men did marvel."

(Mark 5:20)
The maniac of Gadara became a man of God! And he certainly had a story to tell! The Bible says that he began to "publish" what Jesus had done for him. Every saved sinner should boldly proclaim the wonderful story of redemption through Jesus Christ. There are many lost sheep who still need to hear the message of the glorious Gospel of Christ. May God help us to get busy in this great work for our Lord!

CONCLUSION:

This story reminds us greatly that Christ can work miracles when no one else can. The man that we have read about in our text was seemingly a hopeless case. Sin, Satan, and society all proclaimed that there was no hope for a man in such a case. But thank God, when hope's all gone, HELP is on the way!