

A MAN WITH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

Mark 5:1-20

INTRODUCTION

- A. Parallel passages are found in MT 8:22-34 and LK 8:26-39.
- B. Jesus had been teaching by the sea side of Galilee.
 - 1. The multitude gathered in such numbers that Jesus entered into a boat and taught while the people remained on the land by the side of the sea.
 - 2. In the evening Jesus and the disciples crossed by boat to the other side of the sea.
 - 3. In the storm, Jesus rebuked the wind and He said to the sea, "peach, be still," and there was a great calm.
 - 4. Jesus then comes into the country of the Gadarenes, and He met two men possessed of demons. Let it be noted that Matthew mentions two demoniacs, Mark and Luke describe one (probably the fiercest), and who was probably the prominent and leading one. Mark gives the numerous vivid details and fullness of narrative. Cf. LK 8:28 "I" may indicate the chiefest of the unclean spirits.
 - 5. Jesus cast the demons out of the men. He permitted them to enter a herd of swine that were nearby and the swine ran into the water and perished.
 - 6. The name of the demons was "Legion." A legion of Roman soldiers was 6000. The name here means many. Demons apparently went in companies as in this case and also in the case of Mary Magdalene in LK 8:2; MK 16:9.
- C. MK 5:19.

DISCUSSION

- I. TO UNDERSTAND THE GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE INFLUENCE OF THE DEMONS ON THE MAN. – MK 5:2-5.
 - A. The demon made him unfit for society.
 - B. The demon made him restless night and day.
 - C. The demon filled him full of misery and pain.
 - D. The demon was uncontrollable by human power.
- II. TO UNDERSTAND THE GREAT THINGS THE LORD HAS DONE ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF JESUS OVER THE DEMONS. MK 5:6-13.
 - A. The demon came to Jesus in submission.
 - B. The Christ could control one or any great number of demons.
 - C. Jesus commanded the demons to leave.
 - D. Jesus controlled the destiny of the demons.
- III. TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPASSION THE LORD HAS DONE ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE CONDITION OF THE MAN DEMONIZED. MK 5:2-5.
 - A. He lived in tombs without family and friends.
 - B. He was helpless and hopeless – no man could help.
 - C. He was in misery.
- IV. TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPASSION OF THE LORD ONE MUST UNDERSTAND THE SELFLESSNESS OF THE LORD. MK 5:15.
 - A. Full restoration given to the man. MK 5:15.
 - B. Spiritual benefit outweighed any physical cost. MK 5:13.
- V. HOW DID THE PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE GREAT THINGS OF THE LORD AND HIS COMPASSION?
 - A. Some feared the Christ and pleaded with Him to leave. MK 5:14-17.
The spiritual benefit was not worth the physical loss!
 - B. One sought to follow and told others about the Christ. MK 5:19-20.

CONCLUSION

- A. Lesson for us today.
 - 1. The Lord's great works have made salvation available to all men.
 - 2. The Lord is compassionate toward those who need to be saved.
 - 3. The Lord lets each one decide what they will do with the benefits to them.
- B. Sad but true, "many brethren love their worldly interest more than they love the Lord."
- C. Also sad but true, "many brethren have more regard for their material possessions than they have for lost souls."
- D. It is interesting that in LK 8:38, 39, Jesus left the restored to tell the people what great things had been done for him.
- E. Jesus invites all to come to Him. MT 11:28-30; JN 6:37.