

THE HEALING OF THE GADARENE DEMONIAIC

BIBLE TEXT : Mark 5:1-20

LESSON 79 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise east out" (John 6:37).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Mark 5:1-20 (KJV)

¹ And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

² And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

³ Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

⁴ 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: neither could any *man* tame him.

⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

⁷ And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

⁸ For he said unto him, Come out of the man, *thou* unclean spirit.

⁹ And he asked him, What *is* thy name? And he answered, saying, My name *is* Legion: for we are many.

¹⁰ And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

¹¹ Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

¹² And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

¹³ And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

¹⁴ And they that fed the swine fled, and told *it* in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁶ And they that saw *it* told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and *also* concerning the swine.

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Christ's Voyage of Mercy

1 Jesus crosses the sea, Mark 5:1;

Luke 8:26 (KJV)

²⁶ And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee.

2 A man in need comes to Jesus and worships Him, Mark 5:2-6;

Luke 8:27-28 (KJV)

²⁷ And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in *any* house, but in the tombs.

²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, *thou* Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

Matthew 9:13 (KJV)

¹³ But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 19:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

3 The unclean spirit is commanded to come out of him, Mark 5:7, 8;

Luke 8:29 (KJV)

²⁹ (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.

Mark 1:27 (KJV)

²⁷ And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine *is* this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

II The Enemy of Humanity

1 The adversaries are identified as devils, Mark 5:9, 12;

Luke 8:30 (KJV)

³⁰ And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him.

Job 1:7 (KJV)

⁷ And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Ephesians 6:12 (KJV)

¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

2 The legion of devils is humbled and powerless before the Son of God. Mark 5:10;

Luke 8:31 (KJV)

³¹ And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

Matthew 28:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Philippians 2:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

3 Satan is cast out, Mark 5:11-13;

Luke 8:32-33 (KJV)

³² And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them.

³³ Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked.

Luke 4:35-36 (KJV)

³⁵ And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come

¹⁷ And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

¹⁸ And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all *men* did marvel.

out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

³⁶ And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

Colossians 2:9 (KJV)

⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Matthew 8:32 (KJV)

³² And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.

Matthew 17:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Acts 5:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ There came also a multitude *out* of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Acts 19:11-12 (KJV)

¹¹ And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

¹² So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

4 In the face of this manifestation of Jesus' mercy, the people ask Him to depart, Mark 5:14-17;

Luke 8:37 (KJV)

³⁷ Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again.

Matthew 8:34 (KJV)

³⁴ And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought *him* that he would depart out of their coasts.

2 Timothy 3:8 (KJV)

⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

III Transformation by Grace Divine

1 The inward change gives a new outward appearance, Mark 5:15, 19;

Luke 8:35 (KJV)

³⁵ 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: and they were afraid.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he* is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Titus 3:5 (KJV)

⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2 The man desires to be with Jesus, Mark 5:18;

Luke 8:38 (KJV)

³⁸ Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying,

Psalms 73:25 (KJV)

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is none* upon earth *that I desire* beside thee.

3 Jesus gives the Gadarene a work to do, Mark 5:19;

Luke 8:39 (KJV)

³⁹ Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Psalms 107:2 (KJV)

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;

Matthew 10:32-33 (KJV)

³² Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

³³ But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Romans 10:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Acts 4:20 (KJV)

²⁰ For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Isaiah 62:6 (KJV)

⁶ I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

4 The testimony of Jesus' miracle causes men to marvel, Mark 5:20;

Matthew 15:30 (KJV)

³⁰ And great multitudes came unto him, having with them *those that were* lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

Luke 4:37 (KJV)

³⁷ And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.

NOTES:

Seeking the Lost

God has never ceased to seek for the hearts of men. The Son of God never hesitated to leave the ninety and nine to journey far, if necessary that one lost soul could be brought safe into the fold (**John 10:11 (KJV)** ¹¹ I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. **Luke 15:4-7 (KJV)** ⁴ What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? ⁵ And when he hath found *it*, he layeth *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he cometh home, he calleth together *his* friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. ⁷ I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance). The Scriptures state that Jesus came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10) For this reason Jesus went to the land of the Gadarenes across the Sea of Galilee, He had been teaching parables to the multitude, but as evening came He told the disciples that they would go to the other side of the sea. Perhaps the disciples had hoped to go somewhere for a rest, but Jesus had other plans. He knew that there was a man in trouble on the other side of that sea — a demoniac a man who was in sorrow, bound and shackled by Satan. As the demoniac walked along the shore that dark, stormy night, perhaps there was something within him that longed for a better way to live.

As Jesus and His disciples were crossing the sea, a great storm arose, and waves filled the boat. The disciples called to Jesus who rebuked the wind and calmed the waves. They marveled at what they saw, just as men marveled when He calmed the storm that raged in the life of the demoniac.

Help for the Helpless

When the ship reached the shore, Jesus was met by a man who was possessed by a whole legion of devils. Sin had robbed him of his reason.

He was controlled and mastered by this evil power, so the people tried to help him by putting him in chains which he broke in pieces. He went to the tombs, cutting himself with stones and crying in the agony of his soul night and day. Perhaps one would think that this man was too far gone for any help, but Jesus is help for the helpless and hope for the hopeless. "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

The man saw Jesus in the distance, ran and worshiped Him, and Jesus rebuked the unclean spirits and commanded them to leave the man. The army of devils (so many they were called Legion) was powerless in the presence of Jesus. At His command they had to leave the man, and at His consent they entered into some swine which plunged over a bank and were drowned in the

sea. At Jesus' word the man was freed and healed in soul and body.

Concerned About Their Property

When the people of the community heard what had taken place, they hurriedly came to Jesus. We do not read that they were glad because of the change in the demoniac, the man whom they had feared and whose cries had startled them during the night. They did not seem to realize that they had benefited, too, when the menace of the community was turned into a good citizen. The Bible says they feared. They may have feared because of the loss of their property — their means of livelihood.

Many times people seem to overlook the miracles that Jesus performs, because they have their eyes on material things instead of the spiritual. They may even look at the life that has been changed by power divine but fail to see or comprehend what has taken place. Let us not fail to give God the praise and glory for the miracles He has performed in our lives and in others, lest we, too, by word or action, ask the Savior to depart as did the Gadarenes. No doubt there were others there who needed a healing touch from Jesus, but they were denied both spiritual and temporal blessings by praying Him to depart.

Power in the Blood

The wonderful experience of salvation, wherein one is "born again" (**John 1:12-13 (KJV)** ¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: ¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **John 3:3-21 (KJV)** ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸ The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. ⁹ Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? ¹⁰ Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? ¹¹ Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. ¹² If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? ¹³ And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: ¹⁵ That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. ²¹ But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God) and passes from death unto life, was purchased by the Son of God on the cross. Salvation is an instantaneous experience in which one is removed from under the rule of the devil unto fellowship with Jesus; and can be obtained by going to Jesus with a broken and contrite heart, forsaking all sin, and turning one's whole life to Him. The shed Blood of the Lamb of God cleanses from all sin when it is applied to the penitent heart. (**1 John 3:8-10 (KJV)** ⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he

is born of God. ¹⁰ In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother)

In the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah we find not only the promise of a Savior and Redeemer but also of a Divine Healer. The plan of redemption includes divine healing, for God's great economy has made provision for all the needs of His people. In the death of Jesus on the cross, He purchased healing for both soul and body. In **Exodus 15:26 (KJV)** ²⁶ And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

God states plainly that He is the One who heals His people; and His promises are true and change not (**Numbers 23:19 (KJV)** ¹⁹ God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? **Isaiah 40:8 (KJV)** ⁸ The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. **1 Peter 1:25 (KJV)** ²⁵ But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.). The power of God has not diminished in the least; Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

God is very explicit in giving instructions to trust Him at all times and to place our confidence in the healing power of the Blood. We are told in **James 5:13-15 (KJV)** ¹³ Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. ¹⁴ Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. exactly what steps to take when we are afflicted. A curse is placed upon the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm (**Jeremiah 17:5 (KJV)** ⁵ Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD), and a blessing is promised for the one who trusts in the Lord (**Jeremiah 17:7 (KJV)** ⁷ Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is).

QUESTIONS

- 1 What was the condition of the Gadarene?
- 2 What was the cause of this evil condition?
- 3 What was the only remedy for him?
- 4 He is a type of what kind of person today? What is the remedy?
- 5 What manner of people were the Gadarenes?
- 6 Why was their request different from that of the man who had been a demoniac?
- 7 What commission did he receive, and what effect did it have upon the people?

The Adversary

There is an enemy today who tries to keep men from God, who binds them with the fetters of sin, and makes them as helpless as the poor demoniac. Satan is the one who seeks to make men the captives of sin; but Jesus came "to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1). God wants men to believe the Word, and then they will be conquerors through Jesus who has all power in Heaven and in earth.

A Commission

The desire of the Gadarene was to be with Jesus, but Christ saw the need of a witness in that land. This man who was a living miracle was instructed to return to his own people and witness of the power of God. He could remind them of the man he once was: how sin had robbed him of reason and every other good thing in his life; and that Jesus came, and rebuked the devils and cast them out. Then he had peace for his mind and rest for his soul. One way that he could thank the Lord for what He had done was to be obedient to testify of the great change which had come into his life. As he did so, all men did marvel.