
The Deliverance Of The Demoniac Of Gadara

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Leading up to this miracle, **Jesus** had been teaching to a great multitude on the seashore of **Capernaum**, and the crowds so pressed upon Him that He entered a nearby ship to teach the people (**Mark 4:1-2**). It was from that ship that **Jesus** spoke the parables of “**The Sower**” of “**The Lamp**” of “**The Seed Growing In Secret**” and of “**The Mustard Seed**” (**Mark 4:3-32**). When **Jesus** finished the parables, He sent the multitudes away, and when He and His **disciples** were alone “**He expounded all things to His disciples**” (**Mark 4:34**). At evening of the same day He said to His **disciples** “**Let us pass over to the other side**” (**4:35**). As they were passing over, they experienced a great storm, and **Jesus** calmed the wind, simply by speaking (**Mark 4:39**). The **disciples** learned that evening the magnificent power of **Christ** over the elements (**Mark 4:41**). It was illustrated to them that evening that **JESUS CHRIST WAS SUFFICIENT IN THE STORMS OF LIFE!** But **Jesus** was not finished teaching His **disciples**, for they were about to witness another demonstration of **Christ’s** power!

In **Mark 5:1-2** **Jesus** and the **disciples** have crossed the **Sea of Galilee** and have come to **Gadara**, where they would witness that **CHRIST’S PRESENCE AND POWER WAS SUFFICIENT OVER THE EVIL OF SIN AND SATAN!** It was here in **Gadara** that they would see a demonstration of the power of **Christ** to change, to cleanse, and to forgive those who have sunk to the filthiest depths of sin!

I. THE DEPTHS TO WHICH A PERSON UNDER SATAN’S CONTROL CAN SINK AS SEEN IN THE DEMONIAIC OF GADARA

① **This Man Was Under The Control Of Satan:**

As **Jesus** and the **apostles** arrive in “**the country of the Gadarenes**” we read that “**immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit**” (**Mark 5:2**). In **Mark 5:9** the “**unclean spirit**” (demon) is identified as “**Legion**” meaning “**many**” The word “**Legion**” refers to a contingent of approximately **6,000** Roman soldiers. The man that approached **Jesus** and the **apostles** was **possessed** and **controlled** by a **legion of demons!** **Demons** are **spiritually and morally unclean** AND THIS MAN HAD A LEGION OF THEM! **Demons** are filled with **evil** and **ungodliness** AND THIS MAN HAD A LEGION OF THEM! **Demons** are filled with **hate** and **malice** toward God, toward the things of God, and toward the people of God! **Demons** are filled with **rebellion** against God! **Demons** are filled with **opposition** against God! **Demons** are the **enemies** of God, AND THIS MAN HAD A LEGION OF THEM! This man was totally **wretched** and **vile** on the inside! This man was **haunted** and under the **spell** of a

"legion" of **demons!** **Luke** in his account says in **Luke 8:27** that this man "had devils long time" THIS DEMON-POSSESSED MAN IS A PROFOUNDLY PITIFUL PICTURE OF A DEVIL-CONTROLLED LIFE!

② This Man's Dwelling Place Described:

Mark records concerning this man; "there met Him (Jesus), one out of the tombs" (verse 2), and in verse 3 that he "had his dwelling among the tombs" and in verse 5 "in the tombs" **Luke**, in his account says in 8:27 "neither abode in any house, but in the tombs" THIS MAN LIVED IN THE GRAVEYARD! "Tombs" at that time were cut out of the side of a mountain, creating a cave. Spiritually speaking, this man was without **Christ**, and his dwelling place was in character with his spiritual condition, for he was "dead in trespasses and sins" AND HE LIVED AMONG THE DEAD!

③ This Man's Disposition And Behavior Described:

○ He Was Unsettled And Restless:

Mark says "always night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying" (verse 5). This man knew nothing of the **peace** of the **Lord!** He knew nothing about the **security**, and the **assurance** that the **Lord** brings to one's life! He knew nothing of spiritual **refreshment!** His life was filled with **weariness** and **distress!** Notice those words "always night and day" He is like those described in **Isaiah 57:20**.

○ He Was Filled With Sorrow:

Mark says "And always night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs crying" (verse 5). The word "crying" refers to "a loud scream, or shriek, a blood curdling scream" These cries went on continually throughout the day and night! This is a picture of the **despair, misery, anguish**, and **hopelessness** that filled this man's soul!

○ He Was Irrational:

Mark says "And always night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs crying, and cutting himself with stones" (verse 5). The phrase "cutting himself" means "to cut one's self up in the sense of gashing, hacking, or cutting one's body so as to leave it covered with sores" This declares that this man was **self-destructive!** The **destructive** power of the **demons** is also seen in the result of them entering into the swine (**Mark 5:12-13**).

○ He Was Filled With Anger:

Matthew says in his account (8:28), that he was "exceeding (more than), fierce" His actions were more like an animal than a human being!

○ He Was A Moral Degenerate:

Luke says in his account (8:27), that he “*ware no clothes*” He was spiritually and morally “*unclean*”

○ *He Was Uncontrollable:*

Mark describes this in his account (*verses 3b-4*). The “*chains*” would serve the purpose of handcuffs, and the “*fetters*” served the purpose of shackles! This man was disturbed, distressed, unreasonable, irrational, self-destructive, angry, wild, and degenerate, and the authorities tried to deal with this man, but they could not fix or control him! The *social services* and *rehab* programs of today cannot provide what this man needs!

II. THE POWER OF CHRIST OVER EVIL AS SEEN IN THE DEMONIAK OF GADARA

① *Christ Arrives In Gadara:*

Society did not have what this man needed, **but the one who did now arrives in Gadara (Mark 5:1-2)**. The reason that **Jesus** came to **Gadara** was for this man! **Jesus** came to rescue this man from the power of **sin** and **Satan!** **Jesus** came to rescue this particular man from his enslavement, from his misery, from his despair, from his agony! **Jesus** came to **Gadara** to restore and put back together this man’s wasted and broken life! Picture this man as he approaches **Christ**; Broken chains are hanging from his wrists, the clanging of the chains could be heard as he dragged them along! His naked body is covered with scars and bleeding sores from his self-inflicted wounds there is dried blood on his arms, legs, and hands! His hair is matted together with dirt and blood! **HE IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF SIN AND SATAN!** His mind has been affected by **sin** and **Satan!** Wild terror is in his eyes, he is externally and internally unclean! **LOOK AT THIS MAN, AND SEE WHAT SIN AND SATAN CAN DO TO PEOPLE!**

This **demoniak** of **Gadara** very aptly portrays the condition of many. The world is filled with people whose lives have been torn to shreds by **sin** and **Satan!** Everywhere there are people whose lives have been devastated and ruined by **sin** and **Satan!** The world is filled with people who are lost in a maze of **sin**, filled with people whose lives are without purpose, whose lives are aimless because of **sin** and **Satan!** Like this **demoniak** of **Gadara**, there are those who are drowning in despair, and whose lives are bent on self-destruction because of **sin** and **Satan!** **What these people need, the social services of man cannot give! What these people need the government’s hand-outs will not provide! What these people need the intervention programs of man cannot provide!** **WHAT THESE PEOPLE NEED IS THE ONE WHO CAME TO GADARA THAT DAY!**

② *Christ Exercises His Power Over The Forces Of Sin And Satan:*

When this **demoniak** rushed toward **Christ** screaming “*What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God?*” (**Mark 5:7**), the **disciples** probably only saw a

wild-eyed maniac, but **Jesus** saw more than a maniac, HE SAW A SOUL UNDER THE CONTROL OF SATAN! HE SAW A SOUL THAT WAS PERISHING IN SIN, THAT DESPERATELY NEEDED RESCUING! **Jesus** cast the **demons** out, and sends them into a herd of swine, who as a result ran down a steep place into the sea and drowned (**Mark 5:11-13**). The townspeople, hearing of what happened to the swine came to **Jesus** and saw something amazing (**Mark 5:15**).

○ *What The People Saw:*

Mark records *“they saw him that was possessed with the devil” (verse 15)*. They saw the very man who before had **his life controlled by the devil and his demons**. They saw the man who before **wore no clothes!** They saw the man who before **lived among the tombs, dwelt among the dead!** They saw the man whose **blood curdling screams they had heard many times echoing through the mountains!** They saw the man whose **life was bent on destruction!** They saw the man who was before **exceeding fierce and acted like an animal!** They saw the man whom **no man could tame!** BUT HE WAS DIFFERENT! HE WAS NOT THE SAME PERSON! SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HIM THAT NO ONE ELSE COULD DO! They saw him *“sitting (no longer out of control, no longer restless, but calm and peaceful), and clothed (he was no longer naked, but he was now covered modestly with clothing), and in his right mind”* He was no longer deranged, but teachable, able to think clearly and rightly!

○ *What The People Felt:*

Mark says *“and they were afraid” (verse 15)*. They could not explain or understand what they saw, so instead of having hearts filled with joy, praise, and thanksgiving they were overcome with **fear!**

○ *What The People Did:*

Mark records that they pleaded with **Christ** to depart, they pleaded with **Christ** to leave them alone (**verse 17**).

③ **The Miraculous Change In The Demonic:**

Notice the **past tense**; *“him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion” (Mark 5:15)*. HE HAS BEEN **CLEANSED!** HE HAS BEEN **CHANGED!** A life that had been **torn to shreds by sin and Satan**, a life that had been **so devastated by sin and Satan**, HAS BEEN **RESTORED AND MENDED!** A life that had been **lost in the maze of sin** HAS BEEN **RECOVERED!** A life that had been **desecrated by sin** HAS BEEN MADE **WHOLE!** This man that had been **enslaved** HAS BEEN SET **FREE!** THE CHAINS AND FETTERS ARE GONE! He is no longer some crazed maniac, running to and fro, he is *“sitting”* No longer in **despair** and **anguish**, no longer in the **tombs**, no longer **out of control**, he is *“sitting”* **calmly**, he is **relaxed**, he is **untroubled**, and there is a **tranquility** about him! He is *“clothed”* He that was spiritually and morally **vile** is now *“clothed”* You cannot see the scabs, he is *“clothed”* You cannot see the **shame** and **disgrace**, you cannot see the **filth**, he is *“clothed”* He is *“in his right mind”* No

longer in the tombs, no longer crying night and day, no longer angry, no longer in a rage no longer out of control, the **despair** is gone, the **anguish**, the **torment**, the **distress**, the **misery**, the **agony** and the **mania** ALL GONE! A life no longer **bent on destruction!** LOOK AT WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE!

○ *What The Former Demoniac Saw:*

Sitting at the feet of **Jesus**, he no doubt saw beauty in **Christ!** HIS VIEWPOINT HAD BEEN CHANGED!

○ *What The Former Demoniac Felt:*

He no doubt felt, **unburdened**, he felt a **liberty** that he had never felt before! He no doubt, felt a **cleanliness** that he had never felt before! He felt **joy**, a **happiness**, a **gladness** that he had never felt before! He felt a **peace**, and an **assurance** that he never felt before! He had a **love** in his heart that he had never had before! He had a spirit of **thanksgiving** and **praise** that he never had before! He had an **outlook** that he never had before! He had an **attitude** that he never had before! He had **thoughts** and **desires** that he never had before!

○ *What The Former Demoniac Did:*

When **Jesus** was preparing to leave the former **demonic** desired to go wherever **Christ** was going (**Mark 5:18**), but Jesus instructed him “*Go home (it had been some time since he had been home) too thy friends (it had been some time since he had seen his friends) and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee and hath had compassion on thee*” (**Mark 5:19**). He was to tell of the **Lord’s grace** and **mercy!** The former **demoniac** now had a **passion** for the **Lord** and a **burden** for others, and he very zealously told of what **Christ** had done for him (**Mark 5:20**). THIS MAN’S WITNESS WAS VALIDATED BY THE MANIFEST CHANGE THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN HIS LIFE!

Not only is this passage a vivid demonstration of the **destruction**, the **misery** and the **despair** that **sin** and **Satan** can bring upon a life, It is also a vivid demonstration of the **change**, the **peace**, the **joy**, the **restoration** that **Jesus Christ** can bring into otherwise hopeless lives!
