

We're Seen in the Gadarene

Luke 8:26-36

There is a spirit in modern evangelicalism -- often seen in written posts on Facebook, in blogs, and forums of discussion -- that can only be characterized as a "haughty eyes" (Prov. 6:16); lit. "high eyes." A person with "high eyes" looks down at others with disgust: "I would never (be), (do), (think), like..." In the Gadarene demoniac, I hope to show that this man whom Jesus rescues is a picture of you and me.

I. We share with the Gadarene a real compulsion toward painful self-destruction.

Sin is not something theoretical; it is real, tangible, personal and painful. We all possess a sinful nature. *Sin is lack of conformity to or the intentional crossing of the revealed commands of God.* The evidence of demonization is not necessarily the outward manifestations of lunacy or insanity. Demonization is the compelling compulsion to live contrary to the expressed will of God. We are in bondage to self.

(A). I break all chains meant to restrain (v. 29) - *for any restraint is designed to remove my pleasure.*

Of course, when a chain-breaking culture scampers in the civilization of the dead, how does the institutional church react? Condemnation and the creation of stronger chains that produce scars.

The gospel is never designed to control; the gospel is a "sweeter song" designed to captivate.

(B). I bleed from my own internal pain... *the ultimate cause of pain is a dis-connect from God Himself.*

The Gadarene was naked, isolated, bleeding (Mark 5:5 - 'gashing himself), and screaming out loud.

Those in the greatest internal pain are always the recipients of - and givers of - acts of great pain.

II. We share with the Gadarene a radical deliverance from a purposeful Savior.

The good news of Jesus is that He comes to deliver us from our self-destructive patterns of behavior.

"You shall call his name Jesus (Yeshua) for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:28).

(A). Jesus pursues you and me like He pursued the Gadarene.

Jesus went over the Gadarene; He said "let us go over to the other side of the lake" (Luke 8:22).

Some think it is egotistical to say that the God of the universe pursues a relationship with me.

"God had to love and pursue me for I never would have first loved and pursued Him" Spurgeon.

Before Jesus met the woman at the well it is said, "*He had to pass through Samaria*" (John 4:4).

(B). Jesus is able to deliver those others have given up on.

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of full acceptance; Christ came to save sinners" (I Tim. 1:15).

The demoniac seems to be a radical extreme, but he is in reality a picture of the mainstream.

Until we meet the Savior of sinners, we whitewash our tombstones and dance among the dead.

III. We possess with the Gadarene a remarkable desire to proclaim salvation.

Jesus cast the demon "Legion" into a herd of swine that ran into the water and were drowned. The deliverance of the demoniac meant the destruction of a herd of swine. In a parallel gospel we are told 2,000 pigs died. How horrible! "How could God let that happen?" Do you remember Jesus said how much more important is a man to a sheep (Matt. 12:12)? Yes, two thousand swine drowned in the sea. *You can always tell when Satan has culture or civilization in his grip when animals are elevated to the position of humans.* The swine died and the man lived. God is interested in you today. Finally, we see that this man wanted to travel to the other side with Jesus, but his commission from the Lord was to return to his house "and proclaim the great things God has done." That's Christianity. May God raise up within our midst a whole host of Gadarenes delivered for the good of our city.