

“From Maniac to Missionary”
Mark 5:14-20
(Preached at Trinity, August 25, 2010)

I’m supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord’s Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I’ll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. Last time I set before you the account of the Gerasene demonic. After making it safely across the Sea of Galilee they were immediately met by a man so possessed by demons he bore little resemblance of humanity.
 - a. Mark says of him that he lived among the tombs and was so wild that no one could bind him not even with chains. He screamed day and night and gashed his flesh with sharp stones. The demons had made him like a wild animal than a man.
 - b. Matthew’s Gospel describes him as “Extremely violent”
 - c. In Luke 8:27 we read was naked – he “had not put on any clothing for a long time”
 2. This poor man was in the absolute control of a legion of demons. They controlled his thinking, speaking, and behavior.
 3. The demons recognized Jesus and bowed before Him.
Mark 5:6-7 – “Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; ⁷ and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"
 4. Jesus commanded the demons to come out and they implore Jesus to allow them to go into a large herd of swine. This resulted in the pigs going into a frenzy and they ran down the bank and into the sea where they were drowned.
Suddenly the demon possessed man sank to the ground exhausted and free.
 5. You can imagine the dismay of the herdsmen. They were responsible for caring for this large herd of pigs. There were over 2000 of them, a sizeable investment of livestock. They immediately ran to report the unbelievable event:
“This man arrived by boat and began speaking with the lunatic and the next thing we knew the whole herd ran down the bank and into the sea where they drowned.”
 6. It *was* a bit unbelievable so a multitude of town’s people came to see for themselves. They were filled with fear and implored Jesus to depart from their coasts.
 7. Meanwhile the former madman was now in his right mind and desired to follow Christ.
 8. Tonight I want us to look at the contrast of these two people – the town’s people and the former lunatic.
- I. First, let’s examine the town’s people
- A. Many different emotions must have filled their heart
 1. First there was the fear. They didn’t trust Jesus
 - a. They saw Him as a danger – someone who might interfere with their life
 - b. They didn’t understand Him
 - c. They blamed Him for their misfortune
 - d. They had seen a great miracle, and yet remained unchanged.

2. Second, they saw Jesus as a threat to their material prosperity
 - a. They had just experienced a huge financial loss. Even at \$25 a pig you are looking at 50 thousand dollars.
 - b. Like the rich young ruler, they were not willing to part with their possessions.
 - c. Following Christ is not without cost
 3. Most people will tolerate Christ until He makes demands upon their lives. It is at this point that apathy turns to anger.
 - a. Millions have turned to Christ willing to forsake all.
 - b. The rest will not have Christ. Jesus demands that we be willing to forsake all and follow Him.
 4. Their response to Christ: "Leave!"
The people of Jerusalem were soon to have the same response:
John 19:15 - "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!"
 5. We can also see their character in their reaction to the demon possessed man.
 - a. They had no mercy. There was no mercy when he was possessed. They drove him out of town to live among the tombs. They tried to chain him.
 - b. Now that he was delivered from his possession there was no joy over his deliverance
- B. The truth is, the demon possessed man was now in his right mind while the town's people were left blinded. They were not in *their* right mind
1. The lost man is not in his right mind.
Sin has clouded his judgment
Romans 1:21-22 – "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,"
 2. Lost people have lost the beauty of holiness and have become more like brute beasts.
2 Peter 2:12 – "But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed,"
 3. The lost man's problem is his spiritual blindness – he has no wisdom regarding right thoughts of God. He believes he is wiser than God.
 4. A life dedicated to God seems quite foolish to the worldly man
 - a. He is hopelessly in love with this world
 - b. He sincerely believes that his worldly ways are the ways of wisdom
- C. All lost men are under the dominion of Satan in one way or another
1. The demoniac was under the direct dominion of Satan
 2. Satan is a cruel master. The demoniac was self-destructing. Naked and homeless with self-inflicted bleeding he was in misery
 2. The town's people were also under Satan's dominion
 - a. When they saw the power of Jesus they wanted Him to depart. They denied the one who could give them true life.

- b. Satan convinced them that Christ would do them more harm than good. In spite of the miracles that He had recently performed they wanted Him gone. Most men will prefer their goods to Christ. They desired Him to depart - - and He did.

II. The Demon possessed had been transformed

A. He was now in his right mind

Mark 5:15 – “They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind”

1. His mind had been transformed in more ways than one
His mind was now fixed upon Christ
2. Look at the evidence
 - a. Before he was naked, yet showed no shame
 - b. Before he was violent, now he was sitting calmly at the feet of Christ
 - c. Before he was ungovernable. Now he was in full submission to Christ.
 - d. Most important, while the town’s people were imploring Jesus to leave, this man wanted to be *with* Christ. The same word “implore” is used in both verses **17-18**

B. Jesus wouldn’t allow him to accompany Him

Mark 5:19 – “And He did not let him”

1. Instead, Jesus sent the man forth as a witness of the grace and mercy of Christ.
Mark 5:19 – “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and *how* He had mercy on you.”
 - a. Literally, “Go home to yours”
ESV: friends, NIV: family
 - b. It began with his own people
2. The man was obedient
Mark 5:20 – “And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.”
3. Not only was he a witness in his home town of Gadara but he witnessed throughout the entire region of Decapolis – ten different cities.
 - a. He was sent to his own – but it didn’t end there.
 - b. Included in this region is the city of Philadelphia. Could his witness have had something to do with the founding of the church of Philadelphia?
Revelation 3:8 – “I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

C. This is the nature of discipleship

1. Christ has sent us forth as His witnesses
Acts 1:8 – “you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

- a. This is one of those cases where the TR and the NA27 have a difference that changes the meaning – and both meanings are true
 - b. The NA27 uses the genitive case – “My witnesses”
 - c. The TR uses the dative case – “witness to Me.”
 - d. Both of these are true. We are sent forth by Christ as His witnesses to witness to Him.
2. The disciples of Christ are to go forth proclaiming His mighty power, His amazing forgiving grace, His unfathomable love
 3. This is our work. We go forth with joy to witness the wondrous grace of Christ. It begins at home. A man should first be concerned about his own children.
But it doesn't end there.