

EVIDENCES OF SPIRITUAL SANITY

TEXT: Mark 5:1-20

INTRODUCTION: Mental illness is a tragic problem. It is “big business” in the U.S. There are different degrees of it and different causes for it. But often the root problem is a **spiritual** one. The key to good mental health is being in a right relationship with God. We see this illustrated in the gospel account of the ‘**maniac of Gadara.**’

This man was a dangerous sociopath. The demons that possessed him gave him supernatural strength. He was suicidal because the demons tortured him. He was naked. He was at home more with the dead than with the living.

But what a **change** came over him when Jesus cast the demons out! He gave evidence of both mental and spiritual sanity.

OUTLINE: Let us take note of these evidences of spiritual sanity to examine ourselves and make sure that we have had a transforming encounter with the God-man.

I. He was at PEACE.

(“found him sitting...”)

A. With God (Rom. 5:1)

B. With man (Matt. 8:28)

C. With himself (v. 5)

II. He was CLOTHED.

(Lk. 8:27 “...he ware no clothes...”)

A. Nakedness is a Satanic perversion (Gen. 9:21-26; Ex. 32:25).

B. Modesty is the result of the breaking up of Satan’s power (Rev. 3:18).

III. He had Right THOUGHTS.

(“...and in his right mind...”)

A. Satan perverts right thinking.

B. Christ restores man’s true image (2 Cor. 4:6).

IV. He was willing to WITNESS.

(vv. 18-20)

A. A natural desire on the part of one so graciously delivered

B. A desire compatible with that of being with Christ

CONCLUSION: The reality of the miraculous change in this man could not be denied! He was well-known, dreaded, and avoided. Now he was peaceful, calm, rational, and full clothed. There was only one adequate explanation – only **God’s power** could have done it! And the personal testimony of this man paved the way for future ministry by Jesus in this area (Mk. 7:31-37).

