

DOING FOR THE LEAST MINISTRIES
P. O. Box 260752
Corpus Christi, TX 78426-0752
Phone: (361) 331-0824

Website: www.doingfortheleast.com

E-mail: doingfortheleast@yahoo.com

May 15, 2020

Article #7

JESUS DISPLAYS HIS AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS
(Mark 5:1-20)

Jesus goes over to a place the Jews probably would not go, especially in the tombs. Mark describes the demon-possessed man as "being out control." He was such a horrible sight -- he was even abusing himself. Coming up to Jesus he asked, "What do you want with me, Jesus?" He didn't even think much of himself. To make it worse, his name being Legion, this meant several thousand, so there were many. He was in bad shape, but here Jesus came to him specifically. Out of control and useless to himself or anyone else, they asked Jesus to send them into the pigs. The demons just keep going further down. To the Jew, the pig was primarily an unclean animal, so they had nothing to do with them. Jesus granted the request. Then after the man had been healed, he was free of the demons, dressed and in his right mind. The people were afraid of him and Jesus. They even begged Jesus to leave their country. This shows their fear of the unknown and their lack of concern for the man. They should have been rejoicing for him.

While today some cases of demon possession may be around, I don't think that's our application. Today we have people with drug addictions, obsessions and physiological disorders, and irrational fear that are as much out of control and are on as much of a downward decline as this demon-possessed man. Too, as with the possessed man, people start out with low self-esteem not realizing the love of God and His power to change.

As with the man the problems of people today -- "they are many". The addictions obsessions and irrational fears are a cover to the real inner problems. These down deep problems combined with the external problems of addictions, obsessions, compulsions, and fear will do as the demons in the story. They just go further down to destruction. Yet as with the possessed man, until Jesus comes into his life and takes authority, he or any today will stay on that downward decline.

Yet when Jesus takes full authority in our lives these addictions, compulsions and irrational fears begin to come under control. For a bit more, we could refer to Matthew 6:10 and 33. The words "Kingdom come" is referring to God's Rule. When God RULES in our lives, then we can face things like this Pandemic with confidence in the power of the One who Rules. (Reference: Ephesians 3:20-21)

Hope this helps in our present distress.

Ronnie Talbert
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