

Mar 26, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Barry Hosford

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Deacon: C M Hester

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

In Jesus, we have the One who can be trusted with our pain and the shame of the past and present. And, as with Legion, He waits with open arms of mercy for all who run to Him

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God, I'm so grateful that, through Jesus, things that controlled me in the past can indeed remain in the past

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled

(Mark 5:20 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 24, 2020)

Series: Jesus Calls Us

UNIT 2: Experiencing the Resurrection

NEXT WEEK

The Empty Tomb
(Luke 24:1-12)

Jesus Overpowers Legion Mark 5:1-13, 18-20

Lesson Background and Introduction

Being possessed by a demon would no doubt be a terrifying matter. People in Jesus' day (particularly the Jews) often ostracized and always avoided the demon possessed, certainly understandable as we read the lesson text. The man in this week's text was just such a one who had been abandoned by society. Mark 5:1 tells us that Jesus and His disciples went to "the country of the Gadarenes." As soon as they got off the boat, a demoniac met them. The fact that he "ran and worshipped him" (vs. 6) may show that the demons did not have absolute control over the man. That is important to remember. Satan has a limited amount of power. It is far more than we have, but only God is omnipotent. In the end, Jesus cast these demons out. After He did, the man wanted to follow Him. That is certainly understandable. Now he could go back and be with other people, his friends. Jesus had restored his life. In fact, He had given him a greater life by far! But Jesus would not allow the man to follow. He told him, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee." It may be that the man had no family to go back to, but what is more important to focus on is what Jesus wanted him to do. In a word, Jesus told him to spread the good news: the gospel. It is often said that one of the best proofs that a person has truly been regenerated is that he wants to tell other people about it. That certainly is an important point. It is important because God transforms a person in salvation. He (or she) is not the same. The outside may look the same, but on the inside, the person is completely different. So why did Jesus have to tell the man to tell others? Sometimes people need a bit of a nudge. Since the man wanted to stay with Him, Jesus had to point him in the right direction. Jesus also told him what to say. He was to tell others "how great things the Lord hath done for thee." The Greek word for "Lord" is the common word kurios, which can be translated as "sir" or "master." But it is also a synonym for the name of God, Yahweh. In every case in the Septuagint, the translators rendered the name of God (Yahweh) as kurios. That is how Jesus was using the word here. Those who say that Jesus did not claim to be God are ignoring the many times He used this word in this way. The last thing Jesus told the former demoniac was to tell others how the Lord had poured out compassion on him. Even unsaved people today acknowledge that Jesus was compassionate. They often stop short of acknowledging the reason, He is truly God-but they do admit that He was good. As Christians, we are to be like Jesus. True, we do not go around casting out demons, but we can still show compassion to others. Too often we leave acts of mercy to the government. After all, we want to get our tax dollar's worth. But God wants us to be involved as Jesus was, for we are His hands and feet on earth.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator)

We too have been delivered by Jesus. And like the former demoniac, we have stepped out of a life that was more like death (Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:13-15). We too are called to share the story of what Jesus has done for us, to prepare our own communities to meet Christ and come to new life (Matthew 28:18-20). No matter the legions aligned against us, Jesus is in control! All we have to do is place our faith in Him, with joy and obedience.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Jesus' Power Shows Us Our Need for Deliverance (Mark 5:1-5)

Need to face our problems (1-2)

Mature use of God's Word trains to face problems (Heb 5:14)

The Church was setup to train Christians so that they would be able to face problems (Eph 4:11-14)

Jesus warns Christians to watch and pray so that they will be able to face problems (Matt 26:41)

God gave His Word to provide solutions to problems we face (2 Tim 3:16)

God inspired everything that was written to teach and encourage about facing problems (Rom 15:4)

God's divine power is given so that Christians have everything needed to face problems (2 Peter 1:3)

Need to be freed for our bondage (3-4)

Freedom through God's word (Ps 119:45)

Freedom through Jesus' ministry (Luke 4:18)

Freedom through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 3:17)

Freedom because Jesus has set us free (Gal 5:1)

Freedom through the calling of God (Gal 5:13)

Freedom through denying self (Mark 8:33-35)

Freedom through setting our minds and hearts on things above (Col 3:1-3)

Need to be delivered from self-destruction (5)

Delivered from self-destruction by turning from evil and doing good (Ps 37:27)

Delivered from self-destruction by purifying self from everything that contaminates (2 Cor 7:1)

Delivered from self-destruction by putting off the old self (Eph 4:21-24)

Delivered from self-destruction by not allowing even a hint of sin in life (Eph 5:3)

Delivered from self-destruction by putting to death ungodliness (Col 3:5-6)

Delivered from self-destruction by not conforming to evil desires (1 Peter 1:14-16)

Jesus' Power Begins the Action of Our Deliverance (Mark 5:6-13)

Begins the action of worshipping God (6-7)

Worship that keeps one focused on God (Ps 22:27-29)

Worship that prepares an attitude of thanksgiving, reverence and awe (Heb 12:28)

Worship that facilitates bringing an offering (Ps 96:8)

Worship that refreshes (Ps 132:7-8)

Worship that prepares one to offer his life and body as a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1)

Worship that prepares one to be filled with the Holy Spirit (John 4:23-24)

Begins the action of the removal of evil (8-13)

Removal of evil because God does not take pleasure in evil (Ps 5:4)

Removal of evil because it comes from anger and wrath (Ps 37:8-9)

Removal of evil because it ensnares (Prov 5:22)

Removal of evil because of the fear of the Lord (Prov 8:13)

Removal of evil so that God will forgive and heal (2 Chron 7:14)

Removal of evil so that love is sincere (Rom 12:9)

Removal of evil so that sin will be avoided (1 Thess 5:22)

Removal of evil so that the word planted in us can be fully accepted (James 1:21)

Jesus' Power Results In Our Deliverance (Mark 5:18-20)

Results in being with God (18)

Being with God to learn (Deut 4:9-11)

Being with God to hear His word (Deut 31:10-12)

Being with God to bind together in agreement and oath (Neh 10:28-29)

Being with God for consecration (Joel 2:15-16)

Being with God affords rest (Exodus 33:14)

Being with God comforts in trials (Isa 43:1-2)

Being with God is promised until the end of time (Matt 28:19-20)

Results in witnessing (19-20)

Witnessing by making disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19-20)

Witnessing through the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

Witnessing by using God's word (Rom 10:17-18)

Witnessing is telling the truth of what we know (John 3:11-13)

Witnessing is telling confident knowledge of God (Acts 26:24-29)