

To the Community

Today I will start by talking about a demon-possessed man who met Jesus. I want to share one story of when I was young. In my town, there was a graveyard. Next to it, was a big reservoir. And right behind my house lived a crazy man. His hair was long because he didn't cut it, and he was dirty because he didn't wash himself. His clothes were dirty and smelly. He was scary, so no one went near him. People said that when he was young, he was handsome and clever. When I was young, this passage was easy to understand. Drawing this picture in my mind was so easy. Because I just needed to imagine this man. However, as time went on, this passage became harder to understand, because there is no demon-possessed person around me.

However, unfortunately, nowadays I am starting to see people like him. If we see the passage, there are a few explanations about this man. Verse 2 says "a man with an impure spirit", verse 3 says "this man lived in the tombs", verse 4 says "he had often been chain hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet", verse 5 says "night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones". It is very sad.

There are many instances where people who are controlled by power and greed may have started with their own intentions but end up being unable to control themselves. There are many people who ruined their lives by gambling. There are people who do drugs, people who are greedy for power, and people who have fallen into temptation for money. These

people cross the line between the legal and illegal, and the line between logical and illogical judgement. There are people who don't care about other people's lives as long as they can get what they want. There are times when such things are not just part of the media, but happen directly in our own lives. A long time ago, I enjoyed buying cars. I was poor, so when I gained money, I lost my mind. Buying and selling cars, buying and selling... I thought that it is quite easy for people to lose their mind. These people are the same as living in the tomb. In Jesus' time, the tomb was a place that no one looked for. People who lost their minds could not live with other people. They not only distance themselves from people, but others also distance themselves from them.

People want power. If people could have the power to control the world, we too might want that power. However, there is no such thing. A demon-possessed man in the region of Gerasenes could have a significant amount of power. However, this power became something that he could not control himself. His uncontrolled power caused people around him to disappear. In the end, the uncontrolled power will lead him to harm himself.

At the time, if there was one demon-possessed person, in our time, there are many more people who live possessed by a demon. Then, how can the demon-possessed or potentially demon-possessed people of this generation be healed? I want to look at what Jesus did to the demon-possessed man in the passage.

Firstly, Jesus met with the demon-possessed man.

The demon-possessed man of the region of Gerasenes, he was living next to the tomb. No one could control him or live with him. He was living alone in a place where there was no one, a place where no one could come. People can live as human life when they are living in a community. However, a possessed person cannot live in a community. When such a man saw Jesus, he ran to Him. The reason why the man who could not live with people ran to a person, is because of Jesus only. The demons in the possessed man ran to Jesus because of fear and worry. They feared that Jesus would take their lives away, and came to Jesus asking to spare them. To us, Jesus is love. But, to evil people, He is like a grim reaper. The fear of the demons is what guided the man to Jesus. Even if no one could meet him, Jesus met him. Even if he had no chance, if he came to Jesus, there was transformation. It is same to us now. There is a chance at life in Jesus Christ.

Through this story, I am looking at the role of the church. We must guide the people who seem to be possessed by the evil spirits who look at us (Jesus followers). This is our mission. I hope that when people look at us, such thing can happen. Like when Jesus went to that town and the demon-possessed man came to Jesus, this opportunity will be given when we Christians go to others.

What did Jesus do to the demon-possessed man?

Secondly, He saw the worth of a human as greater than the worth of money.

The only way the demon-possessed man could live is by the evil spirit leaving. Jesus commanded the demons to leave the man. In this scene, something questionable happens. The demons leave the man but ask Jesus if they can enter the pigs, and Jesus accepts this. This is because the demons said they cannot leave this town. The demons came out and went into the pigs, and the pigs went crazy and ran into the sea and drowned. There were around 2000 dead pigs. The pig shepherds were shocked and told the townspeople about this.

This is the questionable thing. Didn't Jesus kill all the pigs? What about the pig owner? Did Jesus account for this? I don't have an answer for this question. However, this question that we ask, in itself makes us similar to the demons. The demons that were known as Legion lived in that town. They were localized. They were influencing that town. Our thoughts, values and actions are all influenced by our town. There are people who think money is the most worthy, and people who think relationships is more important than money. As there are people who think honour is more important than their lives, there are also people who throw away their honor for their lives. In our eyes, Jesus caused great harm to the pig owners. But, the pig owners asked Jesus to leave the town instead of compensating. Their perspective was different from our perspective and also Jesus'.

I want to see things from Jesus' perspective. He is someone who gives everything to save one person and give him freedom. He is someone who left His throne in the heavens to save one person. To save Me one person,

to save you one person, He tore his skin and gave his life. The reason why I, nothing special, is here is because of Jesus' heart that goes mad for one soul.

Sometimes we exchange Jesus for honor, knowledge or money. But Jesus never exchanges us for anything. Therefore, we can be saved and have freedom like the demon-possessed man of Gerasenes. You are more than the world to Jesus. God loves you that much. Please remember this.

Loving brothers and sisters, there is one certain way to restore for the generation who only seeks own success. It is people meeting Jesus through you, and them realizing how important they are to Jesus. When you treat others the way Jesus treats you, they will meet Him through you. Then, they too will share Jesus to their neighbours. Remember that the restoration of this generation only occurs through you who met Jesus. I bless that this restoration will be seen through your lives.

EVERYONE SAY AMENNNNNNN!!!!