



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Day When Devils in Thousands Fled!

SPEAKER Ps Jason Teo

THEME Significant Experience of Grace in our Lives

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

THE DAY WHEN DEVILS FLED IN THE THOUSANDS

The day when devils fled in the thousands as recorded in Mark 5:1-20 was a day of breakthrough, change, hope and destiny for the man whom Jesus met at Gadara. The old narrative of his life was replaced by a completely new narrative after he had come to receive the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. Likewise, we can look forward to a new narrative in our lives as we receive the mercy of our Lord and experience similar breakthrough, change, hope and God's destiny for us!

FROM GADARA TO DECAPOLIS

Ps Jason walked us through the encounter between Jesus and the demon-possessed man in Mark 5:1-20 through the following six points:

1. THE PLACE

Although different gospel texts refer to the place where Jesus met the demon-possessed man differently - "Gadarenes" in Mark 5:1-2 and "Gerasenes" in Luke 8:26-27 – they are both the same place. Jesus was entering the Gentile area to reach out to them as well.

2. THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

"because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones."

Mark 5:4-5

The oppressed man was in great torment and misery. The footholds that he had given over to the demons had developed into strongholds and now strangleholds.

This example of the demon-possessed man reminds us of how we can succumb to the oppression of the evil one too. When left unmanaged, a habitual pastime in the physical realm can become a stranglehold in the spiritual realm (e.g. internet addiction).

3. THE DEMONS

"And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea."
Mark 5:10-13

"And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss." Luke 8:31

The demons were tormented by Jesus' presence (Mark 5:7). Yet, they would rather be cast out into the pigs than to be cast into the abyss (Matt 25:41). Hell echoes the terrifying holiness of God and it is the place where His mercy is no more.

God's holiness and justice was met by His mercy on the cross. It is on the cross where the wrath of God was poured out on Jesus on account of our sin. The cross is where we receive the mercy of God as we are saved by faith through what Christ has done for us.

Despite knowing the name of the demon, Jesus asked him for his name in the presence of the disciples for their sake. Even though his name – *Legion* - means "many", Jesus wants his disciples to know that he has given them authority over evil spirits when he sends them out and they need not be intimidated by mere numbers (Mark 6:7).

"When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order." Matt 12:43-44

We as believers can become "dry places" when we are carnal and choose to walk in the flesh instead of walking in the Holy Spirit. Deliverance from demonic oppression does not equate to transformation if there is no evidence of the fruits of repentance and the work of the Holy Spirit. As such, Ps Jason warns us that we may be "swept and put in order", but there can still be legal ground for demons to enter if the lordship of Christ is not evident in our lives.

4. THE VILLAGERS

Although the villagers saw the good thing that Jesus had done in this particular act of deliverance, they were more concerned about the cost of losing more pigs if Jesus continues to cast out demons in their region.

Believing in Jesus is not missing out the fun things in life. Instead, it is gaining a more abundant life. We should not be like the villagers who were more caught up with the cost and loss of following Jesus that we fail to appreciate the gain that Jesus has for us.

5. THE OUTCOME

Instead of living in demonic bondage, the man was given freedom (demons gone). Instead of living in shame, he was given dignity (clothed). Instead of living in hopelessness, he was given hope (start afresh). The past narrative is no more and he is beginning a new one!

Ps Jason exhorts us to be like living epistles to be seen and heard by men. If we are at the dead end of our narrative, God can turn it into a bent corner.

6. THE PLACE REVISITED

"And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marvelled." Mark 5:20

Jesus sent out the man as a messenger of the good news back to his own people. He exited his Gadara (the graveyard) to enter Decapolis (the mission field).

CONCLUSION

The day when devils fled in the thousands from the demon-possessed man was a day of breakthrough, change, hope and destiny for him. He was given a new narrative with a new commission from Christ. Just as Jesus met the man at his Gadara, Jesus can meet us at ours. He can replace our life of shambles with a life filled with hope, purpose and meaning. We can receive his mercy for what he had done for us at the cross. We can also write a new narrative for our lives because we can look forward to breakthroughs at our Gadara.

QUESTIONS

1. Share any encounters you have had with those who have been demonized or struggling with a habitual sin that was destroying them. What had led them to fall into that state?

2. The villagers had possibly regarded the loss of livestock more highly than having Jesus cast out demons. What are some common parallels in our lives today that we often see and experience?

3. Ask the Lord to reveal any area/stronghold in your life that you would like to overcome and be filled with more of Him. How can your cell group journey with you on this?