

Not Everyone Loves The Light! (14-17)

- ⇒ In a shocking turn of events, the people of the region come to see what has happened – and they are more terrified at Jesus’ power to rescue than they were at the demon-possessed man! So, they beg Jesus to leave them!
- ⇒ Are they worried about the _____? Some Bible critics today are. They worry more about the poor pigs than about the man who was rescued from the power of darkness. Actually, this is good news: You are worth far more than a whole herd of pigs!
- ⇒ One writer says: *“This is how _____ human life is. Only in a culture of death, where human life is denigrated, do people value animals more than people.”*
- ⇒ A side note: Because Jewish people don’t eat pork, some scholars suggest that these pigs may have been destined to feed the Romans who loved pork.

The RIGHT Instinct Of A New Disciple! (18-20)

- ⇒ The demon-possessed man, now healed and in his right mind, wants ONE thing and ONE thing only: to be _____ Jesus! This is the right instinct!
- ⇒ Instead, Jesus sends this man on a _____: “Go...and tell...!”
- ⇒ Notice the Christological implications here: *“...tell how much **the Lord** has done for you”* and the man tells *“...how much **Jesus** had done for him.”*

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Do you see how Mark develops his “Enacted Christology” in these chapters? Compare THIS week’s text to last week’s text. In each case Jesus confronts two undeniably strong forces – the force of nature and the power of darkness. In both cases he “calms the storm” and demonstrates His power. And people are terrified. **Mark’s point? “Who then is this...?”**
- ⇒ Just as Jesus calming the storm proclaimed His deity, so His exercising power over the forces of darkness does as well. Remember the words of the song: *“No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand!”* Indeed, when you know Christ as Savior, you are secure in Him!

Communion Worship Next Sunday: December 3, 2023

“God Keeps ALL Of His Promises” (Advent #1)

(Genesis 12:1-3) Pastor Craig Alford

Answer Key: ▪ angel of light ▪ unclean ▪ body ▪ pigs ▪ valuable ▪ with ▪ mission

Sermon Notes – November 26, 2023

Review:

- ⇒ We’ve seen that the Gospel of Mark is designed to help its readers answer the question that Jesus asks His disciples in 8:29, “Who do you say that I am?” One theologian describes this as an “Enacted Christology” – that is, *“the audience learns Jesus’ identity and significance for their lives from the story.”* Mark develops his Christology through narrative.
- ⇒ Last week we looked at the final three Parables of the Kingdom in chapter 4 and then saw the “King of the Kingdom” exercise His amazing power over nature by calming an angry storm! Indeed, the Creator was in the boat!

Today’s Text: Mark 5:1-20

Today’s preaching text features a vivid and terrifying encounter between Jesus and a demonized man. The story is set up almost like a military operation: Jesus and His small band of followers form a strike force to enter enemy territory to rescue one hostage. Indeed, that’s exactly what happens! This story has three sections, each of which features someone begging Jesus for something.

The Thief Comes Only To Steal & Kill & Destroy (1-13)

- ⇒ In II Corinthians 11:14, Paul tells us that, “Satan disguises himself as an _____.” That is, when Satan decides to do so, he can make evil look pleasant, and sin look sweet. In today’s text we see the ugliness of sin and the power of darkness for what it truly is – absolutely terrifying!
- ⇒ The man (and his partner – Matt. 8:28) are possessed by evil; they are _____, filthy in every way, true outcasts, and utterly hopeless.
- ⇒ The power encounter between Jesus and the demons reveals much spiritual truth:
 - Satan & his demons know who Jesus truly is.
 - Jesus by Himself is stronger than an entire hoard of evil beings. When you belong to Him, you are safe!
 - Satan & his demons are bent on destroying the image of God in humanity, including this man’s _____.

Not Everyone Loves The Light! (14-17)

- ⇒ In a shocking turn of events, the people of the region come to see what has happened – and they are more terrified at Jesus’ power to rescue than they were at the demon-possessed man! So, they beg Jesus to leave them!
- ⇒ Are they worried about the _____? Some Bible critics today are. They worry more about the poor pigs than about the man who was rescued from the power of darkness. Actually, this is good news: You are worth far more than a whole herd of pigs!
- ⇒ One writer says: *“This is how _____ human life is. Only in a culture of death, where human life is denigrated, do people value animals more than people.”*
- ⇒ A side note: Because Jewish people don’t eat pork, some scholars suggest that these pigs may have been destined to feed the Romans who loved pork.

The RIGHT Instinct Of A New Disciple! (18-20)

- ⇒ The demon-possessed man, now healed and in his right mind, wants ONE thing and ONE thing only: to be _____ Jesus! This is the right instinct!
- ⇒ Instead, Jesus sends this man on a _____: “Go...and tell...!”
- ⇒ Notice the Christological implications here: *“...tell how much **the Lord** has done for you”* and the man tells *“...how much **Jesus** had done for him.”*

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Do you see how Mark develops his “Enacted Christology” in these chapters? Compare THIS week’s text to last week’s text. In each case Jesus confronts two undeniably strong forces – the force of nature and the power of darkness. In both cases he “calms the storm” and demonstrates His power. And people are terrified. **Mark’s point? “Who then is this...?”**
- ⇒ Just as Jesus calming the storm proclaimed His deity, so His exercising power over the forces of darkness does as well. Remember the words of the song: *“No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand!”* Indeed, when you know Christ as Savior, you are secure in Him!

Communion Worship Next Sunday: December 3, 2023

“God Keeps ALL Of His Promises” (Advent #1)

(Genesis 12:1-3) Pastor Craig Alford

Answer Key: ▪ angel of light ▪ unclean ▪ body ▪ pigs ▪ valuable ▪ with ▪ mission

Sermon Notes – November 26, 2023

Review:

- ⇒ We’ve seen that the Gospel of Mark is designed to help its readers answer the question that Jesus asks His disciples in 8:29, “Who do you say that I am?” One theologian describes this as an “Enacted Christology” – that is, *“the audience learns Jesus’ identity and significance for their lives from the story.”* Mark develops his Christology through narrative.
- ⇒ Last week we looked at the final three Parables of the Kingdom in chapter 4 and then saw the “King of the Kingdom” exercise His amazing power over nature by calming an angry storm! Indeed, the Creator was in the boat!

Today’s Text: Mark 5:1-20

Today’s preaching text features a vivid and terrifying encounter between Jesus and a demonized man. The story is set up almost like a military operation: Jesus and His small band of followers form a strike force to enter enemy territory to rescue one hostage. Indeed, that’s exactly what happens! This story has three sections, each of which features someone begging Jesus for something.

The Thief Comes Only To Steal & Kill & Destroy (1-13)

- ⇒ In II Corinthians 11:14, Paul tells us that, “Satan disguises himself as an _____.” That is, when Satan decides to do so, he can make evil look pleasant, and sin look sweet. In today’s text we see the ugliness of sin and the power of darkness for what it truly is – absolutely terrifying!
- ⇒ The man (and his partner – Matt. 8:28) are possessed by evil; they are _____, filthy in every way, true outcasts, and utterly hopeless.
- ⇒ The power encounter between Jesus and the demons reveals much spiritual truth:
 - Satan & his demons know who Jesus truly is.
 - Jesus by Himself is stronger than an entire hoard of evil beings. When you belong to Him, you are safe!
 - Satan & his demons are bent on destroying the image of God in humanity, including this man’s _____.