

## **SERMON: FROM CHAOS TO COMPOSURE**

**Mark 5:1-9; Luke 8:35**

### **Mark 5:1-9**

**(1) And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. (2) And when He was come out of the ship, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. (3) Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: (4) Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. (5) And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. (6) But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped Him. (7) And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. (8) For He said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. (9) And He asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.**

### **Luke 8:35**

**Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.**

### **Introduction**

Let me say from the beginning that this narrative, which is included in all three of the Synoptic Gospels, is not a proof text for the rejection of professional counseling. Just make sure the counselor is a Christian and has the proper credentials and certification. God works through miracles, medicine, and through Christian counselors. Also remember spiritual advice and practical wisdom are not the same thing as professional counseling. There is a need for all three.

Now let's get to our Scripture. This man's life was in total chaos. Almost every aspect of his life was out of kilter. Evil influences had wrecked his life and made him unproductive. In essence, he was a menace to society.

We don't know the details of this man's life prior to this incident. We do know something happened that caused him to lose it all. Maybe it was something traumatic from his childhood that was never resolved. Maybe he inherited a genetic predisposition to such behavior. Maybe the stresses of life got the best of him as he was trying to provide for his family. Maybe life had thrown him so many curve balls until he couldn't take it anymore and just gave up.

Most of us have not experienced the severity of this man's experience, but we all have had times when chaos was running rampant in our lives. The old, familiar saying has knocked realistically on our front door: "If it ain't one thing, it's another." One lady added her two cents to the saying: "If it ain't one thing it's three or four more." Sometimes trouble and confusion are like grapes; they come in bunches.

Let's look at him before and then after he met Jesus, our Savior. This will give hope and reassurance to those who are going through tough times right now. Not to be pessimistic, but to be realistic, there is something we all need to remember. We are either going through something right now, we just came out of something, or we are about to go through something. So, keep the prayer wheel turning and keep your lips full of praise.

## **Exposition**

### **1. He Was Separated From, Family, Friends, And Culture.**

(He Was Isolated.)

(He Lived In The Graveyard.)

### **2. He Lost His identity, Purpose, Hope, And Dignity.**

(He Was Naked And Acting Irrational.)

(He Said, "We Are Many.")

### **3. He Was Self-Destructive Because He Had No Self-Control.**

(He Cut Himself With Stones.)

(He Had Great Strength, But No Discipline.)

### **4. He Met Jesus And The Encounter Turned His Life Around.**

(The Demons Are Gone.)

(He Is Composed, Sitting At The Feet Of Jesus.)

### **Closing Statements**

Initially, this man thought Jesus was going to torment him. Instead, Jesus transformed him. That's the beauty of an authentic encounter with Jesus. All of us who are saved have experienced this transformation. It made us new creatures. Our fore-parents, in their oral tradition, explained the transformation that Jesus brings in a colorful poetic, yet very blunt way:

"I was on a downward road, no hat on my head, no shoes on my feet, no God on my side, and no heaven in my view. I was too mean to live and not fit to die. The handcuffs of hell on my hands, the shackles of damnation on my feet, but the Lord spoke peace to my dying soul. He turned me around, cut loose my stammering tongue, and sent me on my way. I had an exchange with Him. I gave Him my sorrow and He gave me His joy. I gave Him my confusion and He gave me true peace. I gave him my despair and He gave me His hope of glory. I gave Him my hatred of others and He gave me His abiding love. I gave Him my

free will and He gave me everlasting life. Ever since that day, I have been rising and falling, but I made my vow to the Lord and I ain't never gonna turn back no mo'."

Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

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