INTRO: One thing all men have in common is sin. And one thing that all sin has in common is that it stems from wrong thinking -- thus the wise man says, we all have madness or insanity in our hearts. As Willie Nelson said, "I know I'm not normal -- Nobody is."

I. MOTHER EVE. READ GEN. 1:26-29; 2:8-17
   A. The temptation, Gen. 3:1-5.
   B. What she had to lose/gain: life, paradise home, every tree pleasant, every fruit good for food, dominion over all other creatures, opportunity to live forever...
   C. The odds--God made her, the world she lived in. He thoroughly understood it in every detail. He gave it to her & her husband to have dominion over.
   D. To choose as she chose was insane. Yet, which of us can be sure we would not have made the same choice?

II. THE REBELLIOUS, WASTEFUL SON.
   A. Blessings of his father's house are summed up in vs 31.
   B. The insanity of his sin becomes evident when we see the description of his repentance.
      1. He came to himself.
      2. Only then did he return to his father.
      3. He acknowledged his sin--& recognized that he had sinned
against his father--& against God.

III. THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN OF MARK 5, LUKE 8.
A. Note difference between demon possession & our situation of coming under Satan's power by choice.

James 4:7, Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil & he will flee from you.
1 Pet. 5:8-9

B. While under Satan's influence the man was
1. wild, reckless, out of control, MK 5:1-4
2. He was self-destructive, vs. 5
3. He was naked, Luke 8:26-27

C. When Jesus freed him from Satan, vs 35, he was
1. sitting at Jesus' feet.
2. clothed
3. in his right mind

CONCLUSION: Sinner, if you haven't already done so, you need to accept the freedom from Satan that Jesus offers you. Like the prodigal, you need to come to yourself. Come to Jesus. "Whosoever shall call on the name..." Learn, obey, live a meaningful life under the guidance of Jesus.

Exton, PA, August 7, 1988
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Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 10, 2000