

THE MAN FROM THE TOMBS

Text: Mark 5:1-20

INTRODUCTION: Our text tells of a man who was possessed by demons. His mental and spiritual problems were too large for him to handle, & too large for society to cope with effectively. The scriptures tell us how his problem was solved only with the help of Jesus Christ, the Great Physician.

I. SATAN CAUSED HIS PROBLEM, vs 1-2

1. Made him unfit to live with.
2. Insane.
3. Uncontrollable.

A. Every problem ever experienced by humanity has been caused either directly or indirectly by Satan.

Gen. 3:1—19

B. Consider the alcoholic, the narcotics addict, the chronic smoker.

1. promise of thrills
2. mind expansion

II. SOCIETY EXPERIENCES THE PROBLEM, vs. 3-4.

1. society despised him.
2. chained him.
3. avoided him.

NOTE Society might be called into question for its action, but what else could society do? Society did not the answer to the man's problem. Society had to protect itself from him.

A. Saul of Tarsus was a very dangerous individual as far as Christians were concerned, until one day on the road to Damascus he met the one person who could take him & help him become what he ought to be.

B. Christ's influence in our lives can help to change others.

1. The Phillipian jailer. Acts 16:23-36
 - a. didn't meet Jesus personally on the road as Paul did, but met Jesus thru Paul.

- b. Each of us who knows Jesus as Lord and Saviour probably first came to know him thru some faithful Christian. MT 5:16.

III. HIS OWN ATTEMPTS TO COPE WITH THE PROBLEM vs. 5

1. endangered himself.
2. secluded himself.
3. tormented himself.

- A. Each individual is likewise at a loss to save himself from sin without the help of God. Jer. 10:23

Note case of Naaman: 2 Kings 5

- B. Man must act in his own behalf, but in accordance with God's will. James 2:19-26; Acts 2:36-40

IV. THEN HE MET JESUS, THE GREAT PHYSICIAN, vs. 6-9, 18-20

- A. Jesus freed him.
- B. Jesus clothed him.
- C. Jesus gave him a change of heart.
- D. Jesus gave him a message of deliverance.

1. Satan Wouldn't free him, Some think he will today.
 - a. speak of sexual freedom
 - b. academic freedom
 - c. women's liberation.
 - d. "gay" liberation
 - e. free love, etc.

2. Satan wouldn't clothe him. A person in his right mind doesn't go naked in public, even in a movie or a Broadway play.

3. Satan's message of deliverance is a phony.

CONCLUSION: Are you bound in the shackles of sin? If so, you need to come to Jesus for healing of your sin-sick soul.

1. Satan will promise relief, but he won't deliver. Fun and frolick is not the answer. Eventually, the party's over, & it's time to go home to the emptiness you were running away from.
2. Society does not have the answer. The doctors & lawyers & law-makers of the land do not have the solution to the problems of our souls. In fact, most of them need the answer as desperately as anyone else.
3. The way of direction is not in yourself alone. It is true that you must take an active part in overcoming your own spiritual problems, but your actions must be directed by the revelation of God. Mt. 15:13.
4. The only lasting solution to problems of the soul is to be found in a proper relationship with Jesus Christ. He wants to come into your heart & life. He wants you to come into Him. Rev. 3:20; Gal. 3:26-27.

Jonestown, TX, August 31, 1969
Springhill, LA, June 13, 1971
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, March 25, 1973
La Porte, TX, February 6, 1977
Exton, PA, November 13, 1988
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 10, 2003