

Dutiful Demoniac

September 21, 2014 ~ Mark 5.1-20

Introduction

1. Context

- ✧ Jesus had calmed the “**wild storm**” that evening as they crossed Lake Galilee
- ✧ Now He calms a “**wild man**” when they arrive
- ✧ Jesus demonstrated His authority over “**physical realm**” and “**spiritual realm**”

2. Themes

- ✧ **Fear** / disciples afraid ~ demons afraid ~ people afraid ~ but not Jesus
- ✧ **Requests** / demons ask to go ~ people ask Jesus to go ~ demoniac asks to go too

❖ **Five C’enes**

Scene 1 – Crazy Man (vss 1-5)

Scene 2 – Concerned Demons (vss 6-10)

Scene 3 – Crazy Pigs (vss 11-13)

Scene 4 – Concerned Citizens (vss 14-17)

Scene 5 – Changed Man

Scene 1 – Crazy Man (vss 1-5)

- ❖ **Mark** describes this crazed man very vividly ~ especially his strength
 - ✧ “no one could bind him, not even with chains” (v3)
 - ✧ “chains .. pulled apart .. shackles .. broken in pieces” (v4)
 - ✧ “in the mountains and in the tombs .. cutting himself” (v5)
- ❖ **Luke** said that “he wore no clothes” (8.27)
- ❖ **Matthew** described them as “exceedingly fierce so that no one could pass” (8.28)
 - ✧ Two men demonized ~ singularity vs. plurality confusing
 - ✧ “**Though two demoniacs were found how many were healed?**”
 - ◇ Many commentators assume both were healed ~ but must we?
 - ◇ Pronouns can refer to demoniac or demons . . .
- ❖ This demoniac was physically uncontrollable
 - ✧ He would repeatedly break out of his physical bonds
- ❖ But his spiritual bondage was complete
 - ✧ It was the demons that drove him into the wilderness (**Read Luke 8.29**)
 - ✧ It was the demons that chose when to “**seize him**” (**Luke 8.29**)

Xition: Now we’ll turn to the Concerned Demons . . .

Scene 2 – Concerned Demons (vss 6-10)

- ❖ The demoniac ran to meet Jesus as He arrived (v6)
 - ✧ He started at them from a distance ~ perhaps to attack them . . .
 - ✧ The demoniac called Him “Jesus, Son of the Most High God” (v7)
 - ◇ “How could the demoniac have known this?” ~ He couldn’t . . .
 - ◇ The demons recognized Jesus ~ not the demoniac
 - But one appears to speak for all ~ “What have I to do with You . . .?” (v7)
 - Liberals call this mental illness but they don’t address this recognition
 - ✧ **Read Mark 1.21-28** ~ Jesus healed demoniac in Capernaum synagogue
 - ◇ This demon also recognized Jesus as “the Holy One of God”
- ❖ Jesus asks the demon’s name ~ “My name is Legion, for we are many” (v9)
 - ✧ He begs that they would not be sent “out of the country” (v10)
 - ✧ **Luke** and **Matthew** both expand on the demons knowledge of their destiny
 - ◇ **Luke** mentions “abyss” (8.31) and **Matthew** “before the time” (8.29)
- ❖ It is torment for the demons to be in Christ’s presence
 - ✧ Yet they plead to be allowed to go free so as to torment others (unfair)
 - ◇ Yet Jesus grants their request

Scene 3 – Crazy Pigs (vss 11-13)

- ❖ We now come to the herd of swine
- ❖ In v12 we read “So all the demons begged Him . . .”
 - ✧ Until then speaker had been singular (v7 “he, I, me”, v8 “he, we are many, he”)
 - ◇ “Was the demoniac, a demon or the demons speaking?”
 - ✧ Matthew records that Jesus gave a 1-word response, “Go.” (8.32)
- ❖ The herd of ~2,000 “ran violently down the steep place into the sea” (v13)
 - ✧ “What are to make of this?”
 - ◇ “Why did Jesus allow them to go?”
 - ◇ “Why did the herd immediately destroy themselves?”
 - “Did the swine do this ~ or did the demons choose it?”
 - ◇ “Where did the demon horde go after this?”
 - ◇ “Where did other demons go when Jesus banished them?” (Mary of 7)
 - ✧ I don’t know the answers to these questions . . .

Xition: We turn next to the Concerned Citizens . . .

Scene 4 – Concerned Citizens (vss 14-17)

- ❖ Those tending the swine told it “in the city and in the country” (v14)
- ❖ The people came out to see what had happened (**Read v15**)
 - ✧ “They were afraid” when they saw the demoniac “clothed and in his right mind”
 - ✧ These people had failed to restrain him over and over again
 - ✧ They were afraid to go out to this area because he was there
 - ✧ But now, they’re more afraid, because Jesus has healed him
 - ◇ The disciples feared Jesus after He calmed the storm
 - ◇ And these people fear Him after He cleansed the demoniac
- ❖ “Then they began to plead with Him to depart their region.” (v17)
 - ✧ Some commentators make much of the loss of the herd of swine
 - ◇ They say the people want Jesus gone because he’s bad for business
 - I’m sure the loss of 2,000 pigs was a big financial hit
 - !!!: Perhaps Gil can comment on this afterwards . . . 😊
 - But I don’t see such a concern expressed in the text . . .
 - ✧ Some commentators also criticize prior treatment of the demoniac
 - ◇ “But do they seriously believe they would have done better?”
 - I don’t think so ~ This man was totally out of control . . .
 - ✧ The demons had begged Jesus for permission to enter the swine
 - ◇ Now the people beg Him to leave their region
 - He’s disrupted their world ~ And they want it to stop . . .
 - ◇ Again Jesus accedes to the request

Scene 5 – Changed Man

- ❖ Jesus got into the boat to return and continue His work
 - ✧ The former demoniac begs to go with Him (v18)
 - ✧ **Luke** tells us the people found him at Jesus’ feet when they arrived (**Lk 8.35**)
- ❖ But for the first time on this brief visit Jesus denies a request
 - ✧ He charges the man to stay & tell his friends what the Lord did for him (v19)
 - ◇ The demoniac told not only his friends . . .
 - ◇ He told the people of his town and of the entire Decapolis area
 - ◇ And they all marveled at his story

Xition: What do we learn from this story . . . ?

First – We Learn of Christ’s Compassion

- ❖ He took action when he saw the state of the demoniac . .
- ❖ He took pity on the demons ~ agreeing to their request
- ❖ He took pity on the people (fear) ~ agreeing to leave their region
- ❖ He took action, however, and gave them an evangelist to soften their hearts

Second – We Learn of the Depths of the Fallen Human Condition

- ❖ Men can overcome physical bonds and physical imprisonment
 - ✧ III: Men escape prison all of the time . . . (Fresno, CA / Ashland & Bowling Green, OH)
 - ✧ But spiritual bondage is complete ~ only Christ frees us . . .
- ❖ Men in bondage to, or under influence of, sin isolate themselves
 - ✧ **Pro 18.1** “A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.”
 - ✧ Whereas men in service to God go forth openly proclaiming Him

Third – We See this as Allegorical for All Others

- ❖ **2 Tim 2.24-26** ~ “And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”
- ❖ The story of the Gadarene Demoniac is the story of all saved souls
 - ✧ Jesus comes unbidden to us who are cut off from Him
 - ✧ He breaks the bonds of the “evil one” to whom we are enslaved
 - ✧ He frees us to follow Him ~ by obeying His commands to proclaim Him

- ❑ “The people that asked Jesus to leave were also in bondage to evil”
- ❑ “They had far more in common with the demoniac than they realized”
- ❑ “Though they asked Jesus to leave ~ He left behind a witness”
- ❑ “We too who are saved ~ are witnesses to the grace and mercy of Christ”

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,

And to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

To God our Savior, who alone is wise,

Be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

Amen *pause* Go in peace . . .