

Even the Demons Believe, And Tremble

Jesus meets a man in Mark chapter 5 who is demon possessed. Demon possession existed during the time of Christ so that mankind could see and understand the true power of who He was - the Son of God, the One whom God had spoken of through the prophets under the Old Law. Such demon possession can no longer occur as the death of Christ and the establishment of His kingdom did away with the need to "prove" who Jesus was.

Following Jesus' death the apostle Paul states, "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Colossians 1:13). Obedience to the gospel brings true deliverance and protection from the devil - the devil can do nothing more than tempt us (1 Corinthians 10:13). Paul also stated, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37). Paul also asserts that, "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57). John also writes, "I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the wicked one..." (1 John 2:13). Thanks be to God that the devil can no longer do to anyone what he did to the man in Mark chapter five. This story helps us understand the power of Jesus to change our lives.

The demons immediately recognize Jesus to be who He is, the Son of God. "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" The demons do not recognize the physical man of Jesus, rather they see Him in the spiritual sense of Who He was. The demons continue speaking; "I implore You by God that You do not torment me" (Mark 5:7). The demons (named Legion, for they were many, Mark 5:9) had taken possession of a man, thus the man was not in his right mind (Mark 5:15). Note how the demons barter with Jesus, imploring the name of God, at the same time seemingly understanding the power Jesus had over them. Jesus had already commanded them to "Come out of the

man" (Mark 5:8). The demons continue begging Jesus, again seemingly understanding His power and authority over them (Mark 5:10, 12). However, resistance to the commands issued by Jesus are futile and the demons are forced to leave the man, depart into a herd of swine, and then drown in the sea (Mark 5:13).

The feeders of the swine share the news of what has occurred with the people of the city and country. Sadly, instead of being joyous regarding what Jesus had the ability to do and rejoicing in His power, the people wanted nothing to do with Christ and pleaded with Him to leave (Mark 5:16-17). Many today are no different from those who witnessed and then heard of the power Christ has to make it so the devil can be defeated in our lives. Remember, even the demons believe and tremble (James 2:19). Let us rejoice in His abilities to make us pure through our submission to His will.