

09042022 switching gears for this Sunday **Today we celebrated communion... that means we are Jesus family and we are all brothers and sisters, gathered to eat and drink with those that are most special to us ...family. To be thankful for all that Jesus done for us... *NLT [1 John 5:1](#) Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. Communion is our great connecting point it means “you are In” “You’re family”.***

And only those who are invited can become Children of God..

NLT [John 6:44](#) For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up.

So who gets invited? we often think heroes of the Bible for sure were invited members of God’s family...but God invites the marginalized, the broken, and the misfits to belong ...and there is no greater misfit than this person we see invited today...He gets a personal invite!

So if you think you fall more to the uninvited, side of the spectrum, or the very reluctantly invited but don’t get to close,...take heart..this guy beats you by a mile!!

The background Jesus took the apostles on a six mile boat ride... because Jesus was on a Mission to accomplish something...which was not revealed to his disciples

NLT Luke 8:22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and started out

That ride scared their little faith right out of them... it was a Jesus faith building teaching moment, calming a tremendous storm...from

there they sailed on to their destination ...The mission His Father was sending him on was to deliver a demon possessed man and bring him into the family of God... and he sent Jesus to get him, for he was ready...For he cried out day and night for help...

Mark 5: ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

- Not only was he desperate spiritually, in his anguished torment he would attempt relief by lacerating his body with sharp stones, thereby grossly disfiguring himself...marring the image of God in him even further
- But not to disfigured to God!
- **All this unbeknownst to the disciples in the boat!**

Back to the disciples... Now, as their boat glided gently up onto the solid ground of the shore of the Gerasenes or Gaderenes, The solitude of the lonely shore was probably a welcome scene, after the storm and away from the crowds which which followed them everywhere

No disciple probably gave a thought as to why no people were around, or why the road, which led to the nearby town, was empty. Why?

As Jesus steps out of the boat onto the shore...Matthew an eyewitness records the scene..

NLT MT 8:28 When Jesus arrived on the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes, two men who were possessed by demons met him. They came out of the tombs and were so violent that no one could go through that area.

Oh this is why road is empty...the area was patrolled by two demon possessed men who lived in tombs nearby...

- and from their vantage point on the hill..no one could escape detection and they harmed anyone who traveled on the road below...
- and there is a graveyard close by graveyard. Unclean destination for a Jew...
- **No wonder Jesus did not tell his disciples... they probably would have tried to talk him out of it!**

*****Luke chooses to focus on one of them... and we will too..**

*NLT Luke 8:27 As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a **long time** he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town.*

- **Apparently these men had once lived normal lives in the nearby town, they now lived like rabid animals. The men were demon-possessed, and they were dangerous and had been that way for a long time...which means not always.**
 - Upon landing Jesus immediately departs from the boat..the enemies power is confronted by Jesus power not ours...our power against the enemy resides in us being in Christ.
 - **These men were dangerous not only to any passer-by, but to themselves as well.**
 - **Not only did they disfigure themselves ...They were filthy and no longer wore clothes living in tombs in the hillside.**
 - **This man's dignity has been stolen by the enemy..He no longer even looks to be created in the image of God...all previous relationships destroyed... and harming anyone who would come near...**
 - **Why would demons want to possess a man?...possess or control never own ...only the creator has ownership....a few reasons probably more**
1. **humans have a physical nature...an earthly body...Demons do not have bodies of flesh and bone like us...it appears they want to**

possess them... Although some angels when appearing to men have the appearance of a physical human body...it is not their natural body...they have a spiritual body

2. Jesus makes this clear to the disciples after his resurrection ...

ESV....LK 24: 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

3. Demons want to make people in their image...hateful, and destructive... And indwell people as God does... thus possess/control him

NLTJN 10: 10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.....

- **And that is exactly what the demons did to this man... He stole the image of God and disfiguring him in every way possible**
But Jesus came to give life...and give life back!

NLT John 10:10.....My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

- **And he is going to! The head Demon talking through the man first person singular as if he is the man...but not but knew his time had come**

28 As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please, I beg you, don't torture me!” 29 For Jesus had already commanded the evil spirit to come out of him.....

- **He shrieked...screamed...he knew he was done and so were the others...** *29 This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power.*

- The townspeople had tried many times to contain and to control the men, but his demon empowered strength was too much.
- The two men and the townspeople seemed to have come to an understanding. They would give them the territory if they would live in seclusion and the townspeople would leave them alone at the merciless demons
- he knew who Jesus was... and Jesus came to save the man the demons must go! A jewish Exorsist way of exerting power...submit and give me your name..

³⁰ Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” “Legion,” he replied, for he was filled with many demons. ³¹ The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into the bottomless pit.

Legion was not the man's name..those were the demons speaking...Jesus can separate the person from the problem...

- “A legion was a Roman regiment consisting of 6000 foot soldiers and 120 horsemen
- *Jesus will restore his dignity as a human being and child of God...that will no longer be his identity*

But, They ask to remain in the territory...and Not be judged yet and beg the Lord if they could not control a man...how about some pigs? You are a Jew and don't eat pork...you don't care about them? Right!!

God gave the earth to be ruled by human beings...so not only does the enemy want to usurp the Lord's image in our soul....he wants control of the ...earth...or at least a part of it

An example given in the book of Daniel..when Daniel had prayed about a vision and was awaiting God's answer... an angel arrives after 21 days, and gives the reason for his delay...

NLT DA 10:12..... I have come in answer to your prayer. ¹³ But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.

So Jesus one step always ahead... granted their prayer so readily
32....So Jesus gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned.

- **They did not know it but, They were leaving no matter how they tried to get around it...**
- **Apparently The pigs preferred death to demon inhabitation thwarting the demons plan to remain in bodies and control some territory**

Luke 8:34 When the herdsmen saw it, they fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran

- **The pig ranchers hired hands, were witnesses from a distance and ran away to tell what happened..**

NLT Luke 8:35 People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. ³⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. ³⁷ And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them.

- **After his healing experience **He is clothed and** Sitting at the feet of Jesus this is a rabbinic term for "I want to be your disciple!" He has a new Master!! **how awesome...****

- The people were way more amazed by the man clothed and in his right mind. Than the herd of pigs drowned
 - And at the same time Others began to ask him to leave. Missed who Jesus was by being so caught up in the worries of life...
 - For deliverance had already a negative economic impact on their region... who knows whose livestock operation will be ruined next... **as if Jesus could not help in hat area also!!**
 - though the demons caused all of this ...Jesus was blamed...
- They have rejected Jesus but The Lord loves them so someone has to be left behind to **not simply to tell people about the miracle that happened to him but what that miracle signifies: The kingdom of God is available to you too !**
- Jesus honored their request and left ...he will be back..

37....So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. ³⁸ The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, ³⁹ “No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.” So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him.

- **He had done much damage to his family and the town he grew up in...Leaving to go with Jesus would in a sense have been running away from the wreckage of his past...**
- God is not the god of loose ends...trash people runaway...find new people ... repeat cycle..
- **This man needed to live in such a way that his words would match his actions...**
- **Jesus did not just deliver him from demons...but delivered him a way to restore health where he caused wounds... be a blessing to others ...starting with his own family...and town...**

But that was not the end of it....his mission expanded

NLT *MK 5: 20* So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

- **Ten-Towns ... or Decapolis** a region southeast of the Sea of Galilee of which Gadara was one.
- **The first preacher in the Gaserenes was a man insane, uncontrollable, isolated, alone and possessed by thousands of demons....** who could testify of Jesus power and what Jesus had done for Him.... **this man's experience with spiritual forces of darkness intimately knowing their destructive power...and then experiencing the power of a spiritual force far greater...**
- **This man knew Jesus had absolute power!!**
- **He also knew that if Jesus says stay...and Jesus leaves...he has not really left...he is still in charge and present...and his word can be trusted...powerful lesson for us...**
- **His mess gave him a powerful message...**

The result of receiving the word of God in fertile soil...a Harvest

- **For months the former demoniac shared the good news of Jesus in the Ten Towns.**
- **The next time Jesus came to the region of the Decapolis, the ten towns there were 5,000 Gentiles waiting to greet Him and hear His words**

NLT MK 7: 31 Jesus left Tyre and went up to Sidon before going back to the Sea of Galilee and the region of the Ten Towns

Which directly leads to greatest one time miracle of Jesus ministry...the feeding of the 5000....

NLT Luke 9: 12 Late in the afternoon the twelve disciples came to him and said, "Send the crowds away to the nearby villages and farms, so they can find

food and lodging for the night. There is nothing to eat here in this remote place.”¹³ But Jesus said, “You feed them.” “But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Or are you expecting us to go and buy enough food for this whole crowd?”¹⁴ For there were about 5,000 men there.

That’s how it works...he who was a curse now becomes a blessing...

- ******It is interesting that those whose lives are most damaged often become the ones whose lives are most radically transformed and often end up being the strongest witness for Jesus!**

There is room in the family of God for all who accept the invitation...Then God uses them to invite others...we become living invitations! And that is how it works...he turns messes into messages

End

Add this addendum

- **Lets examine something... Why would demons want to possess a man?...** possess or control never own ...only the creator has ownership....a few reasons probably more
- 4. **humans have a physical nature...an earthly body...Demons do not have bodies of flesh and bone like us...it appears they want to possess them...** Although some angels when appearing to men have the appearance of a physical human body...it is not their natural body...they have a spiritual body
- 5. **Jesus makes this clear to the disciples after his resurrection ...**
ESV....LK 24: 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. 38 And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

6. **Demons want to make people in their image...hateful, and destructive...** And indwell people as God does... thus possess/control him

JN 10: 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.....;

- **And that is exactly what the demons did to this man... He stole the image of God and disfiguring him in every way possible**
But Jesus came to give life...and give life back!

... I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

God’s desire completely opposite with the Demonic... and their leader the devil...

God gave humans dominion over the earth...the enemy want control over earths territory too...

³² *There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby, and the demons begged him to let them enter into the pigs.....*

God gave the earth to be ruled by human beings...so not only does the enemy want to usurp the Lord's image in our soul....he wants control of the ...earth...or at least a part of it

An example given in the book of Daniel..when Daniel had prayed about a vision and was awaiting God's answer... an angel arrives after 21 days, and gives the reason for his delay...

NLT DA 10:12..... I have come in answer to your prayer. ¹³ But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia.

And Demons like angels operate in an organized hierarchy...akin to the military rank *NLT EPH 6: 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

End Addendum

Mark 4:33 Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. ³⁴ In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

How does the play out in life...the start of becoming a disciple...is a deep hunger for something different...Jesus takes a mess and makes it a message

It takes courage to examine ones life, We all live by priorities ... a pri-or-i-ty is an authoritative rating that establishes precedence a thing that is regarded as more important than another.

Something you should remember, however: priorities are not what you say they are—they're what you actually do.

Three Big Mistakes

Most people make one of three mistakes when it comes to setting priorities:

- 1. They don't think about it.** People often do their work and live their lives without consciously setting priorities. They're showing their priorities through their actions, but they're not consciously set. As a result, they end up living lives and doing things they don't really want. They fall into a life they don't want rather than prioritizing the life they want.
- 2. They make it too complicated.** Some people do set priorities, but they do so with complicated systems of numbers and letters. "A1" is given to top priorities, then "A2" to the next level, down to "B1" and "C2" and so forth. The truth is, you can only really have a couple of real priorities at a time. If you think you have many priorities, you aren't being realistic -- you will end up putting a couple of those "priorities" on the backburner -- which means they weren't priorities in the first place.
- 3. They don't live their priorities.** It's one thing to set priorities, it's another to live them. What you actually do, how you live your life, reveals your actual priorities. Your priorities are what you live, not what you put on paper. Too often people say their priorities are one thing, but their lives show those "priorities" are given very little actual time.

➤ **Now, every gardener knows that the weeds grow with a speed and a strength that few good seeds can equal. The result is that weeds are so strong that they choke the life out of the seed, and it never matures, while the weeds flourish and produce more weeds.**

They have three hindrances to being rooted in the word of God...

A. Cares or Worries of life... deals with the assumed needs or lacks of the present and/or the possible fear of loss in the future both of which expend great emotional and mental energy

- Worry is corrosive it eats away our joy, contentment and peace...while it nourishes fear...and it is negative energy...wearing us out... I am so stressed...I just want to sleep...I am so tired ...I have no energy to do anything...I have no patience...I am so busy... I am burned out... These are all symptoms of A preoccupation with the worries of life...
- The worries of the world choke out our hope and security in God...we never learn to stand fast, to take thoughts captive...we remain immature never growing out of a child's maturity level...where everything is the biggest thing...
- B.Riches the seed of the Deceitfulness of wealth.... Wealth tends to create the illusion of safety and security because it has the capacity to insulate those who have wealth from many of the harsh realities of life, so they do not feel they need for the gospel.
- This type of weed chokes out the Word by placing ones confidence and trust in their possessions rather than God
- The problem is it is temporary relief... illness, disease, economic change, war...old age...prove its insulating power has limits...
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Jesus' call for faith is also a call to reassurance that God is aware of whatever storms we are going through and is actively watching over us...Jesus was in the boat with them...

They were never alone ...his word should have been enough for them to assure them they would make it through to the other side...

We must learn that God's desire is to indwell us...much more than being in a boat with us!!

...he never takes a break in his care for us...

And that he is committed to growing our faith in Him step by step...

That we are safe and secure in his love for us...and that he will safely bring us to the other side...

3) Where are we going? Why is this happening?

And that in the storms that will rage in between the going and arriving...he is there with us...

And that his resources will be enough for the journey...when you are determined to obey God, you will wind up in storms and this is where you will experience the Lord's power and love more deeply than they could have otherwise.

God doesn't allow trials and tribulations just to amuse Himself or to test us like steel samples to see where the breaking point is. He allows the storms and fires because He loves us, and through them, we are drawn into the deepest of all possible fellowships with Him.

To know the heart of God more intimately than he could have otherwise.

Similarly, God allows difficulties in our lives in order that through them our withered hearts might expand, and our capacity to love might grow.

So much of our walk with the Lord is trust.

- As we get to know the Lord more **intimately**,
- we learn to trust Him more **thoroughly**,
- believe Him more **definitely**, and move the mountains of ignorance, intolerance, disillusionment, religiosity, injustice, and racism that hinder the gospel's message.

When life overwhelms me, I am learning to focus on that which is unchangeable and eternal, and leave the unanswerable questions to God. I am learning to trust.

Being teachable means always being in learning mode.

*****Point three....there is a mission to be accomplished...** There was purpose in the Lord wanting to go across...

Why did Jesus asked his disciples to take him across the lake from Capernaum to the county or region of the Gerasenes about six miles away by water?...

- Upon arrival the next evening...
- The father heard his cries night and day and sent Jesus to him.

LK 8:26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. ²⁷ When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs.

- To a gentile land already considered unclean by the religious
- To a graveyard setting ...an unclean location
- To a pig ranch...where unclean animals were raised...
- **No wonder he did not tell his disciples...they probably would have tried to talk him out of it!**
- Probably why he does not tell us where we are going in our ministries before hand...we would probably try to talk him out of it...
- Perhaps Jesus Heard his cries of agony and was moved to help him
- But remember...we are in a war...and in a war one must face the enemy to free the captives! Jesus was willing I hope we are!!

WHAT THE BOYS IN THE BOAT SHOWED US IS THAT FAITH IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF DOUBT...IT IS HANGING ON WHEN I AM IN DOUBT...

Upon the going and arriving...storms will take place...but we are assured of arriving...so rest, pray and keep paddling...

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But not only is this is a personal spiritual battle...

God gave the earth to be ruled by human beings...so not only does the enemy want to usurp the Lord's image in our soul....he wants control of the Land...earth...

MK 5:9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

*"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again **not to send them out of the area.***

- They begged and begged not to be sent out of the area...
- And if they could not control a man...how about some pigs? You a Jew and don't eat pork...pigs aren't no big deal? Please
- Jesus answered their prayer...
- Demons appear to be territorial...

An example given in the book of Daniel

DA 10:12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come."

Then to verse 20...

DA 10:20 So he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Soon I will return to fight against the prince of Persia, and when I go, the prince of Greece will come; ²¹ but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth. (No one supports me against them except Michael, your prince.

- And Paul gives us insight in Ephesians they appear like the angels in an organized hierarchy...akin to a military gradation...privates to captains

EPH 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- They will ask to remain in the territory

- Not be judged yet
- And if they can at least be in pigs...

*MK 5:11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons **begged** Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.*

- It is interesting that the Lord granted their prayer so readily...
- They did not know it but he did...
- They were leaving no matter how they tried to get around it...
- The pigs preferred death to demon inhabitation

*MK 5:14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, **sitting there, dressed and in his right mind**; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man--and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.*

- The pig ranchers, did not own the animals so ran to get them...
- Interestingly the people were not amazed by the dead pigs but by the man clothed and in his right mind.
- Two responses to the event
- One the man was found clothed and in his right mind sitting next to Jesus and his disciples...
 - **Others began to pray him to depart.**
 - For his work had a negative economic impact on their region
 - Their fear has turned into rejection and a desire to have nothing more to do with Jesus
 - Christ does not stay where he is not wanted.
 - He never visited the region of the Gadarenes again.

MK 5:18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

- **20. Decapolis.** A district so called from its ten cities, of which Gadara was one.
- He becomes the first preacher in that region...
- **They have rejected Jesus but someone has to be left behind to share what God has done in the area.**
- **And...The first preacher of Christ there was one who could testify of his power.**
- **It is interesting that those whose lives are most radically transformed often end up being the strongest witness for Jesus!**

So Nothing can separate you from the Love of Jesus... no one more separated than that man...he was a home of Demons

RO 8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

no one more separated than that man...he was a home of Demons, but because of Jesus love he was more than a conqueror! He became the first preacher in the Decapolis...10 cities...

So...

- **No territory is outside the reach of the Lord**
- **No one is outside the love of the Lord**
- **No power is greater than he**
- **He has come to destroy the work of the enemy**
- **He will use everyone he restores...**

You are the Lord's witness of his power...it is in the transformation of your life...whether they receive or reject the Lord ...you are there to represent him....

The first preacher in the Gaderenes was a man insane, uncontrollable, isolated, alone and possessed by thousands of demons....

And remember this...

1JN 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

The power is available ask him now!!

And you think you are not good enough! Banish the thought and be about his business.

After his teaching....

The “lake” is the Sea of Galilee, a body of water 680 feet below sea level and surrounded by hills. Winds blowing across the land intensify close to the sea, often causing violent and unexpected storms. The disciples were seasoned fishermen, who had spent their lives fishing on this huge lake, but during this squall they panicked.