

The Crisis of Confrontation Mark 5

John 10:27 *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they Follow Me!”*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, May 31st

Jesus didn't give his Life for us simply so that we could have a free pass to heaven. He gave his life with the expectation, that we should trust him as Savior *and follow (obey) him as Lord*. The clear teaching of scripture is that we not only trust (*have faith in*) Jesus for our salvation; But that we learn to trust him enough to actually and practically follow (obey) Him! “Believer” (pisteuo) is found only 2x in the Bible while “Disciple” (*mathētēs*: a pupil, learner, follower) is used 273 times. Both, believing and following/obeying, require faith and involve a process outlined in Mt 4:19:

“Follow Me (“Head” clarification/obedience) and I will make you (“Heart” transformation) fishers of men” (“Hands” or Life application)

A disciple then, is someone who is committed to:

- Following (obeying) Jesus, (Mt 18:24; Mk 8:34; Lk 9:23; Luke 6:46)
- Being changed by Jesus, (John 15; 2 Cor 3:18; Rom 8:28,29; 12:1,2)
- Pursuing the purposes/priorities of Jesus. (2 Cor 5:14,15; Gal. 2:20; Col 3; Rev. 4:11)

This process is reflected in the choices the early disciples faced in order to follow Jesus.

Curiosity (Jn 1:35-51) → Clarity (Lk 5:1-7) → Conviction (Lk 5:8-9) → Call (Lk 5:10,11) to a personal relationship with Jesus, and a committed relationship with others. (Mt 22:36-40)

Their commitment (*to Jesus and each other*) would be tested many times.

When Jesus commanded his followers to cross the Sea of Galilee, (Mt 8:18)

most just walked away, a few made excuses (vs 19-22), but *“his disciples followed him.”* Vs 23

Their commitment to obeying Jesus led them straight into a Crisis! (Mt 8:24-27)

This storm wasn't designed to Punish or Redirect them, (*Like Jonah*) but to Perfect or Refine them!

(Is 43:1-7; James 1:2-5; 1 Pt 1:6,7) Faith grows during storms and/or droughts!

Following Christ eventually involves a Confrontation with the forces of evil. Mt 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39; Mk 5:1-20 all record perspectives about a confronting a demoniac.

1. His Description: Mark 5:2-5

A. Spiritually Defiled. Vs 2 *“There met him a man with an unclean spirit”*

B. (Spiritually) Dead / Isolated. *“Who had his dwelling among the tombs;”*

Rev 20:14 *“Death and Hell were cast into the lake of fire, this is the second death”* (Thanatos: separation!)

C. Physically Dominant vs 3-4 (See also Acts 19:13-16)

D. Despairing. Vs 5 *“night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself”*

2. His Reaction. Mk 5:6-7

A. Recognition. *“But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,”*

1) The demons recognized who Jesus was (Jms 2:19) when the religious leaders could / would not.

2) Recognition should lead to Remorse, which may lead to repentance. (2 Cor 7:10; Is 6:5; Lk 5:8)

B. Request. Mk 5:7b *“I adjure (beg) thee by God, that thou torment me not.”*

Mt 8:29 adds *“art thou come hither to torment us before the time?”*

1) They Knew His Authority. Ph 2:10,11

2) They knew their fate! Mt 25:41

3. Jesus' response. Mk 5:8,9

A. Command Deliverance: Mk 5:8 *"Come out of the man."*

B. Clarification Vs 9 *"What is thy name?... my name is legion, for we are many!"*

4. The Demonic Negotiation.

A. Their request. Lk 8:31-33

Lk 8:31 *"they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. (ab'yssos: the abyss, bottomless pit of Hell. Rev. 9) ...32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them."*

B. The result. Lk 8:31-33

1) To the Swine. Vs 33 *"the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked."*

2) To the people in the area. Lk 8:35 *"Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, ...sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid... 37 Then the whole multitude of the country ... besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear:..."*

3) To the man. Lk 8:38 *"Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done"*

He became one of the first missionaries (to 10 cities)! Mark 8:20

Concluding Observations:

This story reveals that:

- 1) Satan (and demons) are real and powerful!
- 2) What Satan/demons ultimately do to those who let them in. (Jn 10:10a)
- 3) What society does to those in need. (Rejects, restrains, threatens, isolates, but never changes them!)
- 4) What Jesus can do for anyone. (Jn 10:10b; Lk 4:18)

Application:

What did Jesus do for you? (See Eph 2:1-14)

What are you willing to do for Him? (Eph. 2:10; 2 Cor 5:

Questions (for deeper study/consideration tonight):

- 1) Why did the demons recognize who Jesus was when his disciples so often struggled to grasp this truth? (Compare Mark 4:41 with Mk 5:6)
- 2) If Jesus could have sent the demons to hell, why didn't he?
- 3) Why did the demons ask to go into the pigs? Why did they "kill" them?
- 4) It appears as if the people were more comfortable with the Demoniac before He met Jesus, than they were after. *Why do you think this might have been so?*
- 5) Why do you think the townspeople demanded Jesus leave their area?
- 6) Jesus asked others to follow him; *Why do you think he denied the request of the man?*
- 7) Do you think the disciples might have had questions about these events?

If so, why didn't they ask them?