

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

7-11 Nov 2011

LESSON 6 - GOD'S SERVANT WITH POWER OVER EVIL SPIRITS

INTRODUCTION:

What is the most dramatic change you have seen in someone's behavior?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

Note: *Mark again shows that Jesus was a man of power and action. Since this incident took place on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee we know that it was in Gentile territory. The man was living in caves where dead people were buried. He was therefore "unclean" by Jewish standards because he lived in Gentile territory, lived among the dead and was demon possessed.*

Read Mark 5:1-5

1. How would you have reacted when the possessed man approached?
2. What do we learn about the man from verses 2-5? How did people in the area feel about him?

Read Mark 5:6-13

Note: *The demons evidently did not know about Jesus' two comings.*

3. What effect did the sight of Jesus have on him?
4. According to verse 8, who was speaking in verse 7? How did they know who Jesus was? Why did they call Jesus by name (title)? (**Mark 1:24, 34, 3:11, 12**)
5. Why did Jesus send them into the pigs?

Read Mark 5:14-20

Note: *Exorcism has never been listed as a gift of the Spirit.*

6. Describe changes in the man? How would that have affected you if you were a disciple? A villager? A person from another village that met the man later?
7. Why were the men afraid after he was healed? (15)
8. What was the people's reaction to Jesus when they realized his power? How does this compare to the demoniac's reaction?
9. Why is Jesus' charge to the demoniac different than the charge to the leper? (**Mark 1:40-45**)
10. How was the community changed (or not) by this incident?
11. How do people react today to Jesus' power?

APPLICATION

- How does Jesus need to display His power in your life?
- Are you more like the demoniac or the leper now that God has ministered to you? Who needs to hear about God's work in your life?

Skepticism about the existence of angels and demons is at odds with the direct and explicit testimony of Scripture. From the Garden of Eden in Genesis to Satan's doom in Revelation, the pages of Scripture are filled with references to evil supernatural beings who oppose God and His purposes. Their frequency of appearance actually heightens during the ministry of Jesus and the apostles. In fact, we learn most about their nature, character, and activities from Jesus and Paul.¹

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 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. Rom 8:38-39

¹ Cabal, T., Brand, C. O., Clendenen, E. R., Copan, P., Moreland, J., & Powell, D. (2007). *The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith* (1475). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.