

Life Church Sermon Scriptures for August 12, 2012

Jesus Restores Two Demon-Possessed Men

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KEY PASSAGE: Matthew 8: 28-34

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"

Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

See also Mark 5: 1-20 and Luke 8: 26-39

1. What was it like:

Mad Mo's condition and impact on him and his community

2. What happened:

the process/encounter/interaction with Jesus (from boat landing to pig drowning)

3. What it is like now:

impact on Mad Mo, pigs, swineherders, disciples, Jesus, townspeople.

The Problem: we're to be like Christ and we're not

Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

²²You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (see also Peter 2:21, Philippians 2:5, Ephesians 5:1-2)

The Process: Acknowledgement and a Decision

Nehemiah 2:17 (Bible in Basic English)

Then I said to them, You see what a bad condition we are in....come, let us get to work... so that we may no longer be put to shame.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

Our Response: Proclamation

Psalms 86: 12-13 (KJV)

"I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell."

WHERE ARE YOU?

1. In need of healing, liberation (if so, are you ready to be free?)
2. In Process (if so, how can we support you?)
3. Living in victory (if so, do you need to share this?)

Understanding the Bible

Here, for your convenience, are the Bible passages that we will be using in today's sermon at Life Church. We use modern versions of the Bible so that you can read it in contemporary English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee", "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). If so, don't be alarmed - the passages below are really from the Bible even though they are in modern English.

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from its original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then! Since you probably don't speak Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek, you're going to have to read the Bible in translated form. At Life Church we believe that since you're going to read an

English translation of the Bible you might as well use an up to date one - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!