THE MIGHTY MASTER

PART 2 - OVER THE SPIRITUAL REALM

 **DATE: 10/15/2017 SS**

**TEXT: Mark 5:1-20**

**INTRODUCTION**

Not only is Jesus the Master of all the Natural Realm

As we saw in our last Series of Lessons

But He is also the Master of the Spiritual Realm as well

As we will see in this Series of Lessons

As we begin **chapter 5** we see Jesus dealing with just that

Our new text sits in the middle of several hopeless situations

Just prior to what we just read, Jesus and His disciples were out on the sea during a tremendous storm

The disciples were certain that they were going to die

**Mark 4:38 *– “And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?”***

In their minds, they were in a hopeless situation

When they were engulfed in that storm, the disciples were certain that they would die

Those men were seasoned fishermen, but they were helpless to solve their problem

But, the storm was no problem for the Master of the Sea

He calmed the storm, which calmed the men

Now, Jesus moves into a new set of impossible situations

He encounters a demon possessed man

This man was possessed by thousands of demons

He cannot help himself and the people around him are helpless as well

After this, Jesus will deal with a diseased woman and a dead girl

All four of these situations appear hopeless from a human perspective

Yet, in each of these cases, Jesus proved that He was the Master of them all

If that demon possessed man were alive today, he would be sent off to live in a mental institution

The diseased woman would be sent to Hospice

The dead girl would be sent to the cemetery

As we move through this chapter, we are going to discover that Jesus is not just the *Master of the Natural Realm*

He is also the *Master of the Spiritual Realm,* the *Master of Physical Realm* and the *Master of the Eternal Realm*

He will demonstrate He is All-Powerful!

Today we begin with a trip to the cemetery

We will watch as Jesus demonstrates His power over the Spiritual Realm

We will watch Him deliver a man from a hopeless case of spiritual bondage

As we watch the Lord deliver this poor soul, we need to keep in mind that He can move in our lives and the lives of our loved ones with the same power

He can break the chains that bind and He can set people free!

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s consider …

**I. THE “MAN” – vs. 1-5 …**

Let’s consider the Man and ….

**A. His ‘Defilement’ – vs. 1, 2**

As this story opens,

**vs. 1 & 2** tells us that Jesus was immediately met by a Demon possessed man upon reaching land

How would you like to be welcomed by a Demon possessed person?

We are told that he has an ***“unclean spirit”***!

The Bible is very specific in calling *what-ever* filled him ***“unclean”***

The word ***“unclean”*** means **Defiled**

Something **Defiled** is *foul, disgusting, dirty, contaminated, unpleasant, vulgar, offensive* etc.

Then, we find out that he is not just the home to one foul spirit, but he is possessed by a Legion of demons

**v. 9 – *“And Jesus asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many”***

A legion in the Roman army could be from 2,000 to 6,000 men

In **v. 13**, we are told that when the demons left this man, they entered a herd of swine that number 2,000!

This man was totally under the control of the devil!

The sad part is that this man's case is no different from the condition of every lost soul in the world

Now, not everyone is to this extreme!

But look at what the Bible says in **Eph. 2:1-3 …**

**John 8:44 –** ***“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it”***

**II Timothy 2:26 –*“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will”***

What sad shape … to be in!

He was in a state of **Defilement!**

The Lost world is in a state of **Defilement** as well

**B. His ‘Depravity’ – vs. 3, 4 …**

**Depravity** speaks of Corruption (Moral)

2 words here describe this man's Depravity

Those words are ***“tombs”*** and ***“chains”***

**1.** Tombs speak of death

This man was Living among the dead

The demons drove him away from the Living and he spent his life in the cemetery

In those days, people were not usually buried in the ground

Tombs were carved into the hillsides and the bodies were placed there

Because of his demons, this man lived with the decaying corpses of the dead

**2.** Chains are instruments that bind someone

They keep you from doing something

It seems that the people tried to restrain him

But could not

Their manmade devices could not hold him

He broke them as though they were nothing

This man lived in a state of **Depravity**

**3.** When we look at this poor soul, it’s not hard to make the leap from him to the lost world around us

They are trapped in the same state of pitiful **Depravity**

The sin that possesses the heart of the lost sinner drives him to spend his days and waste his years with dead things

The lost sinner has no desire to be around the living

Death and its works are all they care about!

Of course, man has his methods (Chains)

… of trying to conquer and cure all the problems that plague humanity

Man has his *jails*, his *prisons*, his *institutions* and his *asylums*

Man pushes his *pills*, his *potions* and his *psychology* as the answer to man's dilemma

The problem with man's efforts to cure humanities problems is that man's efforts only treat the symptoms, not the cause of man's situation

Man *acts like he acts* and *does what he does* because he is a sinner!

Lost people choose darkness over light because they hate the light

**John 3:19-21 …**

Lost people choose sin over the Saviour because they are evil and are totally given over to it

**Romans 3:10-23 …**

Let me add that a professing believer needs to examine his or her heart when they begin to desire the works of darkness

You need to look at your spiritual condition when you find reasons for avoiding the light!

When you can't sit through a preaching service, you have a spiritual problem!

When you find reasons to avoid the house of God, you have a spiritual problem!

You are beginning to revert back to the old ways of the old man

That is a dangerous and frightening place to find ourselves!

**His ‘Defilement’, ‘Depravity’**

**C. His ‘Desperation’ – v. 5**

**1.** Can you imagine the terror this man caused?

He’s up there in that cemetery / He’s naked

He’s running around like a wild man day and night

He cuts himself and his body is covered with blood and scars

He screams and yells in his torment

We do not know whether this man cut his body in an effort to find relief from his demons or whether the demons caused him to do it

We do not know why he shrieked, screamed and cried in those tombs

It may be that he did these things because he was **Desperate** to be free

It may be that he was compelled to do them

Whatever the matter was, he is in a **Desperate** situation and he needs help!

**2.** Whether someone is lost and bound in sin or whether they are saved and out of God's will

There is only one cure for their condition!

-- We don’t need a *pill*

-- We don’t need a *psychiatrist*

-- We don’t need a *priest*

-- We don’t need a *program*

We need Jesus!

He is the antidote for the poison of sin!

He is the cure for our condition!

He is the solution to our problem!

Get to Jesus and get the help you need!

That is this man's condition!

It’s horrible, but it serves as a template that could be laid over millions of other lives

In fact, there may be people in this room, this city, this county who are Defiled, Depraved and Desperate!

They need help and there is only one source

And that source is Jesus!

**THE “MAN”**

Next, let’s consider …

**II. THE “MASTER” – vs. 6-13**

First, let’s look at …

**A. The Master’s ‘Compassion’ – v. 6**

**1.** Everyone that lived around there, feared this man

They would avoid the area and fled in terror if he came near

They trembled in their houses at the sound of his shrieks of torment

Children were warned to beware of that crazy man in the cemetery

Everyone avoided this man …

Everyone, that is, but Jesus! Jesus did not avoid him

He made a special trip across the sea and braved a storm simply because He wanted to deliver this one man from the grip of Satan

We see in **4: 35 *– “And the same day, when the even***

***was come, Jesus saith unto them, …***

***… Let us pass over unto the other side”***

Everyone else feared, avoided and despised this man;

Jesus had **Compassion** on him!

Jesus cared about the **Condition** he was in and Jesus was moved to do something about it!

It seems that this man wasn't even a Jew!

He was a Gentile and still the Lord reached out to him!

**2.** Thank God for the boundless love and endless **Compassion** of the Saviour!

Aren’t you glad there are no hopeless cases with Jesus!

We think that some folks are just a lost cause

We may wonder if they’ll ever be saved

Well, I can't tell you for sure that they will,

But I can look around this very room and I see case after case of men and women that others had written off as a lost cause

But You’re here and saved today because the Saviour had **Compassion** on you!

He loved you in spite of your sins

And He came to where you were to deliver you from the bondage that gripped your life

He loved us enough to die for us on the cross,

**Romans 5:6-8 –** ***“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die” “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”***

And He loved us enough to come and set us free

No one is beyond the **Compassionate** touch of the Master!

-- Not Zacchaeus in his tree

-- Not Saul of Tarsus with his agenda of hate and destruction

-- Not the Ethiopian eunuch with his religious confusion

-- And not even us with all the baggage we carry!

There is a Compassionate Saviour just waiting to set someone free!

Jesus sees people with a different set of eyes than we do!

We see their sins, He sees what they will be!

-- We see a drunk, He sees a deacon!

-- We see a drug addict, He sees a preacher!

-- We see a harlot, He sees a choir member!

That is how lives are changed when they come to Jesus!

He will take what we give Him and He will give us something much more precious in return!

We give Jesus our crab apple; He'll give us back a golden delicious

We give Jesus our thorns; He'll give us back an American rose

We give Jesus our acorns; He'll give us a mighty oak

Give Jesus your Jacob, the schemer; He'll give you back an Israel, a prince with God

Give Jesus a Simon, the cursing fisherman; He'll give you back Simon Peter, a mighty preacher

You give Jesus your Saul, persecutor of the church, He'll give you back Paul, militant missionary apostle

You give yourself to Jesus; you'll be amazed at what He'll do with you

It's amazing what Jesus can do when a life is placed in His hands

**II Corinthians 5:17 *– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

**The Master’s ‘Compassion’**

**B. The Master’s ‘Confrontation’ – vs. 6-13**

This man, who ran from everyone else, now runs right to the Lord and falls at His feet

**v. 6 - *“But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped Him,”***

The demons that drove this man away from all other relationships drove him to the feet of Jesus - Why?

They did not fall down before Jesus to worship Him as Lord; they merely fell down in acknowledgement of His deity

**v. 7 – *“And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that Thou torment me not”***

They were bowing in subjection to the Lord of Lords!

***“thou Son of the most high God”***

The demons acknowledge the deity and authority of Jesus, and they beg Him not to **“*torment*”** them

That is, they beg Him not to send them to Hell - **v. 10**

**Luke 8:31 –** ***“And they besought Jesus that He would not command them to go out into the deep”***

Jesus confronts the demons, ordering them to release their captive

**v. 8 – *“For Jesus said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit”***

Jesus then asks the demon his name

**v. 9 – *“And Jesus asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many”***

The demons then request that they might be allowed to enter into a heard of swine that was feeding nearby

**vs. 11, 12 *– “Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding” “And all the devils besought Him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them”***

Jesus gives them permission and they leave the body of the man and enter the swine

**v. 13 a – *“And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine:”***

When they do, the swine cannot tolerate the demons and kill themselves by running into the sea

**v. 13 b - *“and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, …***

***… (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea”***

This is a strange passage, but it teaches us some important Truths

**1.** It teaches us that all spirits are subject to Jesus

They recognize His Authority

They must have His permission to do the things they do

Jesus is the Master even of the demons!

That gives us hope!

It often looks like the devil is winning this thing

If you think that, then you need to read **Rev. 20:10**

That verse tells us that Satan will be cast into the lake of fire

This war is over and Jesus is the Victor!

We’ve been given the Authority of Jesus Christ

**Ephesians 2:6; Mark 6:7**

**2.** This passage teaches us that man is the most depraved creature in existence

This one man could tolerate a ***“legion”*** of demons

A Roman legion consisted of anywhere from 2,000 to 6,000 soldiers!

If you do the math, there were 2,000 swine

They couldn't tolerate the presence of the devils and they committed *suey-cide*

Those pigs couldn't stand the demons, yet this man was able to live with thousands

This just illustrates the human capacity for evil!

The Total Depravity of Man

**The Master’s ‘Compassion’ & Confrontation’**

**C. The Master’s ‘Command’ – v. 13 a**

***“And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out,”***

Every effort of man had failed this poor soul

Everything he had tried to retain a grip on his own sanity had proven useless

But, one word from Jesus and He was free!

That is the glory of salvation!

Man can try his religious works, but they will all fail to save,

**Ephesians 2:8, 9 –** ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”
“Not of (religious) works, lest any man should boast”***

Man can try his pop psychology, but it will fall far short of changing the heart of a sinner

Man can try his Pills, his Programs and his Practices

But they will never change the lives of lost, hell bound sinners

-- There is only one Solution to the Problem of sin and His name is Jesus!

-- There is only one Hope for the fallen soul and His name is Jesus!

-- There is only one Hope for those trapped in a life of Hopelessness and *hopes name is Jesus*

**John 14:6 *– “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me”***

**John 6:37 *– “All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”***

Lastly, let’s consider …

**III. THE “MIRACLE” – vs. 14-20**

We find in these verses the results of Jesus’ amazing Miracle

First, we see that …

**A. He was “Changed” by Jesus – vs. 14-16 …**

When the pigs ran down the mountain and killed themselves,

The servants who were tending to the herd went to town and told their masters what had happened

The townsfolk came to see for themselves

When they arrived, they heard all the details and they could see the evidence of a changed life right before their eyes

And the Bible says – ***“they were afraid”***

They knew who this guy was, and to see now this Miracle made them even more Afraid

3 things here …

**1.** Jesus ‘Changed’ Him

No longer is he running around, crying out and cutting himself

Now, he is calm and seated beside Jesus!

What a change!

That's how it works!

You cannot meet Jesus and remain the same

He changes all those who come to Him

**II Corinthians 5:17 *– “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”***

**2.** Jesus ‘Clothed’ him

No longer is he naked, but now he is clothed!

This is just further proof of his change!

What we need to notice here is that what Jesus does in the heart of a man is *ALWAYS* worked out on the outside of a man

**Matthew 12:35 –** ***“A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things”***

**3.** Jesus ‘Calmed’ Him

We are told that he is in his right mind!

Where there has been turmoil and agitation, there is now perfect peace!

He has been changed spiritually, physically and mentally!

What a picture of the total change that salvation brings to the converted sinner!

Jesus literally gives everyone He saves a brand new life!

Jesus changed him from the inside out!

Jesus started with the man's real problem!

A bad heart is every lost man's real problem!

His sin isn't his problem; the outwards manifestations of sin are merely the fruit of the problem; a wicked heart is the root!

**B. He was ‘Committed’ to Jesus – vs. 17, 18 …**

The people of that region were afraid of Jesus and they demanded that He leave their country

For these people, this episode was just too much!

They might have been able to handle a little preaching, but when Jesus started changing lives and costing them money they wanted no part of Him

So they drove Him away

By the way, there are a lot of people like that around today!

Just give them a Sunday morning service and they are satisfied

Maybe they will even come back Sunday night or Wednesday

But, don't ask them to do any more than that!

When the Lord wants more they rebel and push away

Friend, when you come to a place in your life where you are satisfied, you have problems!

When you come to a place where you cannot sit through a preaching service, you have a problem

When you refuse to give Jesus a little more because it will interfere with your life and your routine, you have a problem!

Most folks want just enough Jesus to make them feel good and to keep them out of Hell

Jesus isn't a good luck charm!

He is a life-changing, eternity-altering Saviour

He wants more than just a few hours a week

He wants everything you have and everything you are to be laid on the altar of surrender

We had better be careful how we treat the Lord

He might just give us what we want

When we teach our children that other things in life are more important than worship and the things of God,

Don't be surprised when they walk away from the Lord later on

When we tell the Lord by our actions that we are satisfied and that we do not want any more,

Don’t be surprised when He takes away what we already have

If we honor Him, He will bless us

If we treat Him like we can make it without Him,

He may just give us what we ask for!

Look at the contrast!

The townspeople want Jesus to leave

The man who has just been saved wants to be with Him

That's what salvation will do for you! / It will ruin you!

When you get saved and your heart is right with the Lord, you will love Him, His house, His Word and His people

Wherever Jesus is, that's where you will want to be too!

**C. He was ‘Commissioned’ for Jesus – v. 19, 20 …**

Jesus refused the man's request to go with Him

Instead, Jesus sent him back to his home to tell others what the Lord had done for him

And, that is precisely what he did

He went into **“*Decapolis*”,** which means *the ten cities* and he preached the Gospel of grace to all who would listen!

Can you picture in your mind how this scene must have played out?

This man comes to town preaching Jesus

They are wondering who this fella is

Then someone recognizes that he’s the madman

But wait! Something is different today

Yes, it's still him / He still bears the scars in his body,

But the look in his eye is different

He isn't screaming, he’s preaching about a man named Jesus

He isn't running around like a wild man; he is calm and sane and he is talking about how Jesus has changed his life

He isn't naked; he is clothed and peaceful and changed

The people listen to his story and they are touched; some are no doubt saved

What a difference Jesus makes!

We are commanded to share the Gospel – Mk 16:15

We are to go to a lost world and tell them the same thing this man was commanded to tell –

**“*how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee*”**

People might argue with us about our doctrines;

But they cannot refute our testimonies!

Nothing is more powerful than the testimony of a changed life!

**CONCLUSION**