

~~2PP~~ Beautiful Feet

The Gospel in Action Mark 5:1-20

Intro: This is the 6th in the series called Beautiful Feet, and today we'll be looking at Jesus living out the Gospel as a tremendous example for us to pattern our life after. We're going to be looking at Mark 5:1-20, but by way of introduction, turn to Mark 4:35-41-- Jesus said to His Disciples that He wanted to go to the other side of the lake. He didn't tell them why, but they would soon discover why.

As they rowed or sailed across the Sea of Galilee, a huge storm comes up out of nowhere.

Where's Jesus? The same place the disciples should have been: resting in the stern of the boat. Jesus is God and has control of everything. He wanted to teach them a valuable lesson about faith and trust. Didn't he say, "Let's go to the **other** side." He didn't say: "Let's go into the middle of the sea and die."

So, when this storm came up, it was all under the knowing mind of their Lord. The wind came rushing down the mountain into the sea and caused these waves to come over the sides of the boat and almost capsize them. I'm pretty sure that Jesus was also getting wet as the waves crashed against the boat. But he was asleep on a cushion. If the disciples had been trusting and believing when Jesus

said that they needed to go to the other side, they would have been snuggling up on a cushion along with Jesus.

But, no, they were worrying about themselves and their "Major" need at the moment. "**Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?**" Because He loved them and wanted to teach them more about who He was, HE got up and rebuked the wind and calmed the waves.

He got up and rebuked the wind and calmed the storm. What's significant about that? What was the problem and where was it coming from? They saw/we see the water as the problem when that is only a side effect of the real problem. The problem was the wind. If there was no wind, there would be no waves. This is the Gospel in action. Jesus dealt with the real issue, not the effects of the problem.

How often do we see only the waves and not the wind? We see the problems around us but not the root cause. We don't have time to dive deep into this, maybe another time, but for example: you can't get along with someone. The "problem" as you see it is, you argue, don't agree on anything and just dislike that person. The root cause is; your heart. **James 4:1 "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?"** Sin is our biggest problem. That's what Jesus came to address. He didn't come to get us to conform outwardly, but to renew our hearts. To free us

from the power and penalty of sin. We could never do that on our own. It is the Gospel at work in us.

He loved His disciples enough to teach them this important lesson of faith and trust. This is a lesson we all need to learn as well. Let's move on to our main text for today and you will see a similar pattern with Jesus.

Please stand as we read these verses:

Mark 5:1-20

¹ "They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.

² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.

³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,

⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.

⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him.

⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."

⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied,

"My name is Legion, for we are many."

¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside,

¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them."

¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened.

¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.

¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs.

¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.

¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled."

~~1) **3PP One Man:** Why would Jesus come all the way across the Sea of Galilee, meet with one man, then leave? Because of His love for all people. Why did He come to earth to die for **our** sins? Because of His love for all people. Why would He save **you**? Because of His love for you.~~

~~**4PP Matthew 18:12** “**What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?**”~~

Have any of you ever arrived someplace and realized that you left one of your children behind somewhere? You drop whatever your doing, leave the rest of the family at a safe place and race back to get the one that was left behind. I've done it.

Years ago, when PT was Youth Pastor, they chartered a bus to go to a conference in Atlanta. They stopped at an Arby's for lunch. Everyone got off the bus, ate and got back on. My wife, Helen, was taking the count to make sure everyone was there and she saw our son, Caleb get on the bus. But Caleb decided that he needed to use the restroom one more time before leaving, so he got off the bus again without Helen noticing. As she walked down the aisle counting the kids, she asked Caleb's cousin, Todd, where he was and Todd said that Caleb went to the bathroom and he pointed to the restaurant. She assumed that he meant the restroom on the bus, so she gave the OK to the driver to

leave. As they were getting on the onramp of the highway, Todd finally convinced them that Caleb wasn't in the bus bathroom, but got off and went back into the restaurant.

They stopped the bus safely on the side of the onramp and someone got off and ran back the ½ mile to find Caleb. Everyone was left safe on the side of the road and one person went out to track him down.

Here, in our text, was a lost man who Jesus had to go find and save.

Here was a lost man that Jesus had a plan and a purpose for.

Who was he? Let's look at the text once again: **Mark 5:3-5**
³ ***“He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,***
⁴ ***for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.***
⁵ ***Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.”***

This man couldn't live in regular society, he was an outcast. More than likely was without clothing, uncontrollable, unkempt and caused people to fear. One of the other gospel's says that people were even afraid to walk near where he was.

Jesus had compassion for this man and cared for him so much that, He, was willing to travel across the Sea of Galilee, through a storm to meet with this one man. Jesus was living out the Gospel. Jesus knew something about this man that no one else could see. He had a plan for him in his future, that would make a profound impact in his community. Jesus, knew the affect of the Gospel on this one man would change a community forever. This one man had no capability to fix his problem by himself. He could not make the demons go away. He could do nothing about his circumstances. Only Jesus could do that. This is the Gospel. Jesus doing something for mankind that we could never do on our own.

There is only One Message:

~~2) SPP One Message:~~ Look at verse 2; **~~“And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.”~~**

How did this man know who was getting out of that boat? He was clearly insane or had no control of himself. Who was really in control of this man? We know that it was an evil spirit, because look what happens when Jesus gets out of the boat. **Mark 5:6-7 “And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most-High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.”**

When the man saw Jesus, he/spirits ran up to Him and bowed down to show respect for someone with more superiority. There was no internet, newspapers, tv or anyway this man would know who Jesus was, but yet, here he was bowing before Him and calling Him “Son of the Most-High God”.

Jesus was calling to the spirits to come out of the man. Once the spirits started talking through the man, Jesus asked the spirit who he was. He called himself Legion. That meant that this man had over 3,000 spirits in him. No wonder he was uncontrollable.

Jesus is more powerful than any demon or demons

Jesus’ message to the man was simple, but profound. “Come out of him. I need him for My purpose. I have a job for him to fulfill.”

It’s the same principle that we talked about with the storm in the sea. Jesus rebuked the wind and calmed the storm. Here he rebuked or dealt with the evil spirits and put the man back in clothing and restored him to his right mind, as the scripture says.

Sometimes we complicate Jesus’ message for us. One thing we learned in our counseling class is that “the problem is not the problem, it’s the heart.”

So, what's your problem today? Is it dissatisfaction with your job, your family or your life in general? Is it struggling with lust issues? Is it the anger that keeps raising its ugly head in your life? All of these "problems" are just symptoms of a deeper root issue. It's your heart problem. Deal with your heart first...your own pride and selfishness... and you'll see these other so-called problems diminish. And it's only Jesus that can do that work in your heart. Try as hard as you want, only the good news of the Gospel, and Christ in you has the power to change your heart.

I want to clarify one thing: Sometimes our circumstances or problems we have to deal with are NOT of our own making and are out of our control. But Jesus is still concerned about our heart response to each of these difficulties.

3) ~~6PP One Mission:~~ What happened to the man? As Jesus was getting into the boat to leave, he asked if he could go along. Let's read it: ~~Mark 5:18-20~~

~~¹⁸ "As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him."~~

~~¹⁹ "And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."~~

~~²⁰ "And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled."~~

Jesus came all the way over to this beach to meet with this **one man** with **one message** and sent him on **one mission**. What was that mission. To go and share all that God had done in his life with those who he knew. And that's exactly what he did. He made Jesus known all throughout the Decapolis.

Here's a guy that for all intents and purposes was a worthless outcast and rejected by everyone. He was a fear-filled man and one to be feared. When Jesus got a hold of his heart everything became different. And people marveled at the change. I'm confident that this was the beginning of something that took this part of the world and turned it upside down. The Gospel went forth and impacted so many people.

Where did he get his Bible degree? Who was his pastor? He took the little he had and used it for God's glory.

What did David use to defeat the giant? A rock and a slingshot and the power of God

What did Samson use to defeat 1,000 Philistines? The jawbone of a donkey and the strength of God.

When Gideon had over 33,000 men, how many did God chose to defeat their enemy? 300 only AND God.

Many of us think that we cannot be used by God because we're not prepared enough or smart enough. But look

throughout the Bible and see how God took the very simple and changed hearts and lives of thousands of people.

Jesus displayed the Gospel this way: He found **7PP** one man who needed the truth and healing in his life. He shared **8PP** one message that His grace is more powerful even than 3,000 demons and it can change us and those He brings into our life.

And he gave us **9PP** one mission:

10PP ~~Matthew 28:18-20~~

~~“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”~~

How can Jesus use you to be like this One man, with One message and One mission? What needs to take place in your life in order to be obedient to HIS command to “Go therefore and make disciples...?”

11PP ~~1 Corinthians 15:1-4~~

~~“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand..., For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...”~~