**Jesus' power over the Devil - Lesson 3**

**Mark 5:1-21**

**Introduction**

So, to recap on the series so far, we've been discussing The Lord Jesus' power over all things.

The word “Omnipotence” is ascribed to Christ, this word essentially speaks of His unlimited power, His ability to do all things as God, and Creator and sustainer of life.

As we continue on in this series it is important that we do not let these accounts be taken for granted.

We must also be wary to give no place to doubt as to how such things occurred.

We start with the reality that this created world in which we live was formed by our Creator God; and this loving, all powerful, triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), can do (and does) as He pleases.

Jesus took upon Himself a body and dwelt amongst men; fully God, fully human, and it is the reality of His divinity that explains how He is able to perform such miracles as we have been discussing so far in this series.

In today’s lesson we will be discussing the case of “the man of Gadara” and his encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ. In this account we witness that Jesus has unmatchable power; even over the forces of evil!

**2**

**“A hopeless case”**

We live in a fallen world and in this world, there is much brokenness that can be seen all around us. People have given themselves over to all types of vices (i.e. heavy drinking, drug taking, selfish lusts, etc.). Such substances and thoughts can take over a person and cause them to act in uncontrollable ways.

But the man in this account wasn't under the influence of alcohol, or drugs, he wasn’t just someone out of their mind.

No, this man was possessed with many evil spirits... he was demon possessed!

This man was so out of control because of his sad state, that he was kept far away from the rest of society. Not even chains could hold this man down.

In such a condition as this; it was only the kindness and love of the Lord Jesus that could save him.

In spite of how busy Jesus was, travelling from place to place, He saw fit to include this troubled soul in His goings and did not overlook him.

Here we see the heart of Christ, and He has never changed! Jesus came to seek and save that which is lost, in love He came down from Heaven to carry out the plan of salvation and bore the punishment for the sins of all of His people on the cross.

**3**

**Torn in two**

As we reflect upon this account it is interesting to observe the initial reaction of this troubled man as he noticed Jesus' approaching him. His response was as if he were being torn in two!

We read that the man actually ran toward Jesus to worship, and yet within a few moments, cries of mercy were being exclaimed.

It's as if the recognition of the Deliverer had dawned upon him, whilst the demons were simultaneously struck with fear at the presence of the One all powerful God.

The demons feared the power of Christ so much that they begged to be cast into a herd of pigs (endeavouring to escape destruction). This was only to their undoing as upon being cast out, their new host of pigs scurried off of the edge of a cliff! **The Lord has power over the Devil!**

**The result**

What we witness next is nothing short of a miracle.

The man who was once out of control and by all appearances a lost cause… was now completely transformed!

The man who could not be held down was now sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind.

**4**

He was now healed and given a new lease of life by the Lord; he felt his sense of indebtedness to Jesus and desired to follow Him; to assist Him as a humble and grateful servant.

So, having reflected upon this biblical account what truth can we learn?

1. **No one is too bad for Jesus!**

The first thing that I want to emphasise is that, no one is too bad for Jesus! No matter what you may have done in your life, no matter how many times you may have fallen into sin, God’s grace and mercy is more than enough.

**It is God's work to save.** **God delights in saving!**

For His own name's sake and glory, He will bring in all of His elect. He sent His Son in love, to redeem even “the worst of sinners”; the sacrifice of Christ is more than sufficient to pay for and cleanse from the darkest stains of sins guilt and our lawlessness.

**So never say that you are too hopeless to be saved.**

Repent of your sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

If He can heal this demon-possessed man, how much more is He able to save you.

**5**

1. **No case is too hopeless!**

Now that we’ve established that no one is “too bad” to be saved… let us consider the reality that there is nothing “too powerful” to keep us away from the salvation of the Lord.

**There is no case “too hopeless”.**

You may feel that your sins are too consuming; that you won’t be able to repent or that you won’t be able to escape the doubts that taunt you away from believing.

**But understand this,** not even a host of demons could keep that lost man from being saved.

Pray and ask the Lord to give you faith, to give you repentance. Come as you are, as we sing in the well-known Hymn **"Just as I am".**

**Knowing that you are a sinner, acknowledging your case;** make the plea in faith, that you believe Jesus’ blood was shed for you.

**That He died for you,** taking the punishment you deserve for all of the sins you’ve committed.

Willingly taking your place, that you might know reconciliation and peace with God.

Saved from a lost eternity, and granted the free gift of everlasting life with God forever.

**6**

1. **Nothing is too hard for Jesus!**

We also learn from these things that **NOTHING is “too hard” for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

The One who created all, is not (and CANNOT) be limited by anything.

The world has tried to solve the problems of this sin sick world for centuries.

Man has tried to bring world peace, to eradicate famines and to stop all injustice, **but all to no avail.**

In spite of the various governments and philosophies, the world has not been able to clean itself from sin (or the ramifications thereof).

It is only God who can deal with the root cause.

Only God can deal with the issue of man's sin… and to save all of His sheep is not a task too hard for the Almighty.

By His grace He calls them all in, one by one and brings that inward change that no force can stop.

The genuine fruit of such change is clearly seen in the lives of many Christians who were used of God to do many mighty things.

Countless schools established, hospitals and charities alike, it is the grace of God working in the lives of His people that enables them to carry out so many acts of kindness.

**7**

**Christians tell others about their Lord**

So we’ve considered “the man of Gadara”, and I’d like to close pondering on these final thoughts.

We see that after all the Lord Jesus Christ had done for this man; now restored and saved from all of his anguish, he begged Jesus to be able to stay with Him, to go wherever He would go.

Such was the amazing grace of the Lord, that a spring of gratitude and love had burst forth in the man’s heart.

This is the common experience that occurs when an individual has a saving encounter with the Lord.

Rebel sinners are now bound to Christ in a way that they had never experienced before.

We read that the Lord Jesus told this man to go home and tell all he knew of the miracle that had taken place. To go and be a witness; telling others of the grace and mercy of God; His power to save and His love to reach even “the worst of sinners”.

Have you come to know that experience of repentance and faith?

Have you come to recognise your desperate need to be saved and the amazing grace of the Lord?

If so, do you know what it is to be forgiven all your sins, the Lord would have you go do the same as this man.

**8**

To go and tell whoever you can of what God has done for you. To witness for Him.

From being on the broad way, to now being set on the narrow road to Heaven.

From being bound by your sins, to now being set free from them and from their penalty.

There are others around you who are yet to know the salvation of the Lord, and it pleases God that you would share the good news with them.

So be encouraged to let your light shine amongst others; sharing of all that the Lord has done for you.