

STONE HARBOR

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January 25, 2009

Understanding Who Jesus Is By Taking Note of What He Has Done Mark 5:1-20

Introduction

Read Mark 5:1-20

Let's understand who Jesus is by taking a look at what He has done – in the life of this poor man in the middle east 2,000 years ago, in our lives today, and even in the biggest picture of His coming into the world for the good of all mankind.

I. Specifically for the Demoniac from the Country of the Gerasenes

A. Jesus Came to Him

We have just seen Jesus cross the Sea of Galilee, calming the stormy sea by His command and raising the question as to who He was, and enter into Gentile territory where he meets this poor tormented fellow.

B. Jesus Made Himself Known

- The Demons Knew Him

5:7 "...what business... Jesus, Son of the Most High God?"ⁱ

- The Demoniac Came to Know Jesus as the Lord in His Coming to Him

Jesus: Go report what **the Lord** has done for you...

Man: proclaimed what great things **Jesus** had done

C. Jesus Removed the Demons Out of the Man

8 For He had been saying to him,

"Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

D. Jesus Restored the Man to His Right Mind

15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed

sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, ...

E. Jesus Had Mercy on Him

19 And He did not let him, but He said to him,
"Go home to your people and report to them
what great things the Lord has done for you,
and how **He had mercy on you.**"

Jesus totally restored this man's life. We have to see Jesus as the one with the power and authority over the demonic realm. He is the one that can command out demons. But, we need not only take note of what Jesus did in this man's life 2,000 years ago, we can also take note and significant encouragement in what Jesus has done in our own lives. Let's take note of what has Jesus done for us...

II. Specifically for the Christian from the County of Monterey

A. Jesus Has Come to Us!

Just as surely as Jesus came to the man in Mark 5, He has come to you and me.

Granted, He has come not in the sense that our lives on earth overlap in the face to face human interaction which the man had with Jesus. But certainly more than in the sense that Martin Luther King Jr. "came" to my kids, who were born after he was assassinated but who live in the time that the racial equality and civil rights of African Americans which he fought for have come to fruition in their lives which now have an African American president.

Jesus actually had face to face contact with very few people. Yet, His coming into the world in time and space has had an universal impact -- such impact that you and I are directly effected by Him still today.

He was sent by the Father to us, and He sent His disciples in His name indwelt by His Spirit to bring Himself to each generation subsequent to His incarnation right down to you and me."

Jesus came into your life and mine in the preaching of the Gospel. Is it not true that Jesus is still present with us today albeit in the Spirit detected not with fallen eyes of flesh, but with eyes of faith?

We can very accurately say that Jesus has come into our lives.

B. Jesus Makes Himself Known to Us!

I did not always know Jesus. As a matter of fact I grew up not knowing Him. Of course I had heard of Him: My dad went to church; there were Jesus Freaks around when I was a teen; we

lived in a Christian nation; my high school was founded by Christian missionaries... but I certainly did not know Jesus Christ myself.

And even after I heard the gospel of Jesus preached with intelligence and conviction in my young adult life, I still thought it was the stupidest thing for the simplest of minds – how ridiculous, irrational, for non-thinking medieval minds!

I now see I was one who's "foolish heart was darkened" so that I could not see with my natural faculties the supernatural truth of Jesus. To see the truth of Jesus as God the Son required God to first enable me to see.

It is true in both Lori's life and my own that the first time we heard the gospel, we both thought it was ridiculous. Then, time passed and we heard the same message again and we embraced it as truth.

1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

What was the difference? God gave us eyes to see and ears to hear. Those of you taking Becky's class on Friday's or in some of the community groups will hear pastor Culver teach on this very thing. We see what we can see with our natural minds, but that is not all there is to reality. There is reality which we can not see with our natural abilities.

Kit references the example in 2 Kings 6:1-17 in the story of Elisha the prophet and his servant being attacked by a hostile army. The servant is freaking out as he sees the intimidating and formidable opposition. Verse 15-17 pick up the story:

"Now when the attendant of the man of God had risen early and gone out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was circling the city. And his servant said to him, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, I pray, **open his eyes that he may see** " And **the LORD opened the servant's eyes and he saw**; and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

Acts 16:14 – "A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and **the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.**"

Doctrine of Effectual Calling

C. Jesus Displaces the Demonic Influence in Our Lives!

I don't believe I was ever possessed by demons. But I do believe I was under the spell of the fallen world system over which the Bible portrays Satan as ruler.

Speaking of those who are perishing Paul says in 2 Cor 4:4

“...the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

The same thought is seen in Eph 2 using the language of death.

1 And you were **dead** in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Satan and his demons are that which are against God's original design for us causing (as Pastor Kit said) estrangement from God – our blindness and deadness to the reality of God.

The apostle Peter says in [1 Peter 5:8](#) -- Be of sober spirit, be on the alert Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Satan did not just tempt and deceive Eve; but He (and his demonic minions and those he has deceived that they might deceive others) has an ongoing influence that is rightly seen as blinding and deadening us to the reality of God.

Paul says in 2 Cor 3:3-4 –

3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, **your minds will be led astray** from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. 4 For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

And continues in verse 13-15 --

13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness.

We may not be demon possessed, but we are subjected to the deceiving work of Satan and his servants who present themselves to us disguised as servants of righteousness, and who present their messages disguised as truth.

Outside the Christian Church we are presented a picture of reality based on what the natural mind with our natural senses can perceive. But there is more to reality than meets the eye.

Inside the Christian Church there is a proclamation of a less than true message by those agents of Satan who disguise themselves as preachers of what is right but who are instead the modern day voice of the same deceiver who Eve faced in the Garden. There is more to truth than what is preached in our churches.

Jesus commanded the demons out of the man in Mark 5 and in Jesus coming into this world He has displaced the deception of Satan and placed Himself in our view that we might know the true God and His true truth in Him.

In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

Our great challenge is to look to **Jesus** and to listen to **Him** turning our attention away from the false explanations of reality espoused by the world apart from Christ.

But we can't even see Him as He is unless He first sets His merciful gaze on us and extends to our deadness His life giving touch. This is the lesson of Jesus encounter with the well intentioned but unseeing Nicodemus. John 3:3 Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot **see** the kingdom of God."

Thank God that...

D. God has Caused Us to be Born Again

God recreates us with the ability to perceive spiritual reality.

Eph 2:1-7 (esp 5)

4 But **God**, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved),

We were dead to the reality of God, estranged from Him and unable to see Him as He is, but God has made us alive with Christ!

1Peter1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has **caused** us to be **born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Jesus restored the former demoniac to a right mind – a mind that was rightly dealing with the reality of God. God, in Christ Jesus, has done such a miraculous transformational work in us that we can rightly describe it as being born a second time. This time with eyes that perceive not only the natural but the supernatural truth regarding the reality that includes God.

Let's look at one more parallel between the story of the delivered demoniac and what Jesus has done for us.

E. Jesus Had Mercy on Us Too!

Jesus in Mark 5:19 calls His act of restoring the man to the rightness of mind as an act of mercy.

"Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you."

Again in Eph 2:4 and 5 -- "But **God**, being **rich in mercy**, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, **made us alive together with Christ** (by grace you have been saved),"

I can not help but note that we could no more help ourselves than the demoniac could help himself. You (who have found yourself able to believe in Jesus as the resurrected Son of God) are the product of God's merciful recreation of you as a restored child. You are able to perceive the truth about Him only because He has enabled such understanding.

Jesus extended Mercy! Jesus has done great things, supernatural things, restorative things not only for the tormented man who lived among the tombs 2,000 years ago but for us who live in the deadness of this sparkling-disguised world of the 21st century Monterey. But, the target of Christ's restorative work is of course much bigger than us in our little corner of the world. Christ has done great things for all people from all places ... Here we can appreciate the wisdom of Pastor Kit Culver who helped us so very much last weekend see the importance of understanding any one part of the Bible in the context of God's big plan of

restoring all of creation from it's estranged condition to the rightness of His original design – God in union with man by His indwelling Spirit exercising dominion over His creation.

III. Generally for All People from All Places – The Big Picture

Story of my looking for the Biblical Theological perspective

At first I could not see it – no significant OT references

Than, how could I not see it?

Jesus encounter with the demoniac in Mark 5 is a battle in the bigger war for the world, a part in the whole which makes most sense in it's bigger setting and which contributes to our understanding of that bigger plan.

Please don't take this in any sort of a cheapening way, but I saw Jesus' encounter with this man like a minute in a boxing match. Let's say a 12 round 3 min per round tag team match.

Round 1

- Garden of Eden / Satan (The Serpant) vs. Eve
- The Fall
- Some would call, "Round 1 to Team Demons"
- Yet, God as Coach in the corner speaking of His victory plan (Gen 3:15) in the face of apparent defeat. Gen 3:15 (heal/head) – Protoevangelium – Gospel – God's Plan of Restoration

Round 2-10

- Next Occurrences of Satan or Demons in their ongoing fight against God's people.

Round 11 – Jesus vs. Demons (Mark 5 and earlier)

- Jesus steps into the ring with a big herd of demons
- Jesus plays with them in Minute 1,
- dominates in Minute 2 – Mark 5,
- delivers the head shot in Minute 3, Work on the cross.
- The damage is done. The fight is effectively over. Satan is still standing but he is staggering as a dieing man. People are talking TKO but the referee hasn't called it. One more round to go but...
- Round 11 to Jesus

Round 12, Still in the Future

- Jesus Comes Again
- KO
- Winner Takes All
- New Heaven and New Earth
- Restoration Complete
- Rev 20 binding of Satan

Our story from Mark 5 is best understood as one minute in the fight between God and Satan. Jesus exercised authority over the demons as you would expect the Son of God to do in the Kingdom of God.

Conclusion

In the last part of our passage we have the record of what Jesus asks of the restored man: In Mark 5:19 Jesus tells him to go home, report what great thing the Lord has done.

The delivered man did go and report what Jesus had done and the reality of Jesus' restoring the creation to its proper order was proclaimed to people who had not previously known the good news. Gentiles – east side of the Sea of Galilee.

What would Jesus ask of those of **us** who have received His merciful touch and who now see the reality of God in Christ through the power of His indwelling Spirit?

1. "Live In Christ"

"Live in Christ" is Kit's Sunday message title. He rightly emphasized the importance of first knowing who we are in Christ and then living in light of that reality – Live in Christ. We are people who were estranged from God by the common condition of fallen humanity separated from God, fish out of water... but who are now joined to God through Christ by the Holy Spirit. Remember Kit's definition of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to be "in Christ." He rightly said being in Christ means, "[Sharing in His life through union with Him by His indwelling Spirit such that we are being transformed into His likeness.](#)" Jesus would ask us first to be aware of who we are in Him.

The reality of our life in the already but not yet requires us to look carefully at what God has done for us in Christ. We can miss it because our natural eyes are still seeing the natural world. But using the eyes God had given us as new creations in Christ, we must look carefully at what God has done for us in Christ. This is the foundation that enables us take the next step.

2. Respond to Christ, Naturally

That is to say, respond to Christ according to your new nature as one born again who can now (with God enlivened eyes) see the reality of God that others can't as of yet.

- Report "what great things the Lord has done for you and how he had mercy on you."
- God has unveiled truth to us, we have the responsibility to accurately tell others of this truth; not apart from God but in response to His commissioning of us as His representatives to this world.

i. [John20:21](#)

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the **Father** has **sent** Me, I also **send** you."

ii. [2Corinthians 5:18](#)

Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the **ministry** of **reconciliation**,

What this means for each of us at Stone Harbor

I believe God would have **us** report to those in **our** sphere of influence what God has done for us. More than invite them to church so that the preacher can tell them, we are to tell them ourselves.

There is no need to tell them what you do not know, simply tell them what you do know God has done for you.

This of course does require that you understand God and His plan of restoration as clearly and accurately as you possibly can and that you see and take notice of what He has done for you. And it is true that this takes some careful and time consuming study. It takes understanding of God as He has revealed Himself in the pages of Scripture.

It takes more than you are going to get on any given Sunday, and more than you are going to get on all the Sundays added up. It will require you to take the initiative yourself and become an active learner. It will require you to develop the skill of differentiating between the false gospel preached by those deceived by the enemy and the true gospel defined by God in all of Scripture, lived out and fulfilled in Jesus, preached by Paul... But it is not out of our reach!

How can I be so sure that you and I can understand God? It is because God gives us understanding through His indwelling Spirit. Therefore, it is not about our raw natural intelligence, it is about our loving and careful attention to God who in love has given us eyes that you might see Him.

What would God have us do with this passage of Scripture? I believe He would have us know Him, by what Jesus has done for us; He would have us live as those restored "in-Christ"; and in a way that is natural to our restored selves, He would have us report

to those in our respective spheres of influence on what He has done for us.

Let's pray!
