The Appointment

Mark 5:1-13 (Mark 1:21-28).

Sermon Outline

A. The Need (vs. 1-5):

1. Christ once and for all arrived at Gerasenes.
2. As soon as Christ set foot unto this town the demon possessed man greeted Him.
   a) Jesus got out of the boat, He encountered a man with an evil spirit (cf. 5:8, 13 with 1:23) from (ek, “out of”) the tombs. These were probably cave like rooms cut into the rocks of nearby hills which served as tombs and sometimes as haunts for demented people. Matthew mentioned demoniacs, whereas Mark and Luke focused attention on one, probably the worst case.[]
3. The man spirit was controlled by demons who were heathen with no rights before God.
   a) This man is a victim. He was not considered to be a Satan worshipper or anything like that but, yet this legion of demons possessed him.
4. The man, who ran day and night among the tombs, brought before Christ spirits that are not acceptable in the presence of ‘the Most High.’
5. The place that this man remained permanently was among the tombs.
6. The demon possessed lived endlessly among the tombs.
7. Everyone lack the ability to stop him from running day and night among the tombs screaming loudly. Everything they tried to use to control him was torn apart because of his supernatural strength.
8. No one had the capability or prevailing results when they tried to put this man under some form of control.
9. No once could restrain the demon possessed man so that he can be controlled to behave appropriately.
10. The demon possessed man every day of every week continuously screamed loudly among the tombs habitually cutting his body. The demons seem intent on destroying this man’s life by demonstrating continuously their dominants of this man. Jesus stopped their plan.

B. The Meeting (vs. 6-9):

1. Jesus was constantly traveling from one town to the next. Nowhere does Mark state that this was the first time Jesus came here (Mark 1:45).
Jesus public ministry was so dynamic people were coming from everywhere. This man’s life was among the tombs so Jesus came to him.

2. The man who ran uncontrollably among the tombs now runs to Jesus once and for all. This was an act, based on this being in the aorist tense, where there were no plans to repeat it over and over again. Everything stops now!

   a) The small moment the man had once he saw Jesus was the moment that changed his life. As soon as the man got in front of Jesus the demons took over again.

3. The demon possessed man came and prostrated himself before Christ demonstrating his reverence, respect and adoration for Christ (the person who is the sinner appreciates Christ most; Luke 7:40-50).

4. This demon possessed man demonstrated once and for all his respect for Christ deity.

5. The man has a split personality. He spoke and now the demons speak.

6. The man spoke boisterously and with a sense of urgency.

7. The man continuously kept repeating to Christ that they were not working towards the same purpose so there was no purpose to the meeting that the man sought.

   a) “What business” – it seems like destroying this man’s life was another transaction like in the case of Job.
   b) What do you want with me…? – A way of saying, “what do we have in common?” Similar expressions are found in the OT (e.g., 2 Sam. 16:10; 19:22), where they mean, “Mind your own business!” The demon was speaking, using the voice of the possessed man.

8. The demons in the demon possessed man acknowledged that Jesus, even though fully human was deity in line the highest nature of all who God is.

9. They constantly pleaded with Christ to swear by taking an oath to not torment them. After they had totally tormented this man they asked to be spared torment.

10. They viewed Christ as the One who had supreme power of them (Colossians 1:15-20). Whatever Christ sovereignly decides is final.

11. Christ kept saying ‘unclean spirit’ emphasizing that they are unacceptable in the presence of God so by their own admission, ‘Jesus, Son of the Most High God.’ they must go. His presence means Christ now rules everything so because His holiness reins uncleanness must leave. Light always removes darkness (John 3:18-21).

12. The demons wanted Christ to make an oath once and for all promising that He would not put them in mental distress or physical torture. This could mean that they were asking Christ to make an oath to not send them, like the demons of Genesis 6, to the Abyss. Torment could also mean demons not having any embodiment.

13. Christ was constantly telling the demons to come out of the man. Christ kept saying with no plans to stop saying the demons must leave the
man. The demons knew that they had no choice but to leave, because Christ is the very nature of God, but they did not know where they were going so they kept pleading with Him to tell them where they are going or try to ask Him where they can go.

14. Christ was repeatedly asking them, with no plans to stop asking them, what is their name because if they had a name someone had authority over them. Their name also describes their true character.

15. The demon repeatedly stated to Christ his name is Legion, meaning there are continuously about 6,000 of them in this man’s body.

  a) The Latin word “Legion,” commonly known in Palestine, denoted a Roman army regiment of about 6,000 soldiers, though it probably also meant a very large number (cf. v. 15). To people under Roman domination the word no doubt suggested great strength and oppression.[2]

C. The Purpose (vs. 10 -13; 18-20; Ephesians 6:10-17; Hebrews 1:14):

1. The demons where earnestly pleading with Christ seeking to influence Him to do what they wanted Him to do. They were almost to the point of urgently seeking to make Christ do it.

2. They drew Christ attention to the pigs assuming Christ, the High Priest, would quickly agree since they were unclean based on Levitical law.

3. The demons where earnestly pleading with Christ seeking to influence Him to do what they wanted Him to do. They were almost to the point of urgently seeking to make Christ do it. Maybe they felt He would agree since it was pigs.

4. The demons constantly repeated what they were asking Christ.

5. Jesus the Son of the Most High God’ gave them permission, exposing His authority over them.

6. Even in pigs the unclean spirits displayed their nature was to ‘kill steal and destroy’ (John 10:10). They could not destroy the man, because of Christ appointment, but they made sure they destroy the pigs and the economy of someone’s well-being.

7. The man is healed and restored to his family.

8. Christ, as a result of His mercy, restored this man back to God.
