



SEE IT

Mark 5:13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

OBEY IT

We can learn three lessons from today's text.

This story always gets to me. Here is this guy who is terrorizing the community. He goes to Grandma's grave, pulls her out and sleeps in her grave. Jesus comes in and takes not one or one hundred but 2,000 demons out from him. Think about that. 2,000 demons. How does it feel to be inhabited by 2,000 demons? Here are some lessons we can learn:

1. The people see the man healed but they care more for the pigs than the person. Same thing happens today. We use people and love things.

Many just care about what people can do for us. Its pigs over people all over again.

2. Anyone can be restored. This man had issues with his family, finances, friends, relationships, health, and more importantly his spirituality. No one is so far, God can't reach. In High School I had a friend who had one ear missing. Correa was his last name. People dismissed him, made fun of him. I invited him to spend the weekend with me. Made his year. With all the dumb stuff I did in high school, this was one good thing I remember. One act of love can make a person's day.

3. Let's love people, not pigs. We have it backwards sometimes. We use people and love things. Service helps us understand that when Jesus comes back, he won't be coming for your church pews, the keys to the church kitchen or care for the color of the church walls. People are a higher value. If we need to choose, let's choose people.

SHARE IT

1. Write a handwritten note (not an email or text) for someone people ignore.
2. Knit a beanie or blanket or buy one for a homeless person.
3. Put change in the washer/dryer for the next person.

My Prayer Today:

Jesus, help me love people over possessions and help me demonstrate that I care about others through my acts of service today.

My Thoughts _____



SEE IT

"There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The **poor** are to be relieved, the **sick** cared for, the **sorrowing** and the bereaved comforted, the **ignorant** instructed, the **inexperienced** counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, **this work will not, cannot, be without fruit.**" (Ministry of Healing 143-144)

OBEY IT

This quote bundles evangelism and service. Here are some principles to remember:

1. A service lifestyle is part of a divine expectation. It would be helpful to understand that when standing before our maker, instead of asking us to recite the eschatological timeline, God asks "what did you do about my children that needed help?" Mathew 25:34-36

2. A service lifestyle takes us out of our comfort zone. It's more than outreach, its reaching out. Even to those who don't look, believe, speak, or act like us. That includes our enemies! Mathew 5:46-48

3. A service lifestyle breaks down barriers. It's all about love, and love can indeed "conquer all". When we express love, we break down pre-conceived concepts about the church and God. Most people, when they think about church, associate it more with asking for things than giving you things. Service goes a long way to change that perception.

SHARE IT

Remember, there are **37** recorded miracles of Jesus in the New Testament. There is **one** written sermon of Jesus (Mat. 5-7). Remember the initial quote? "If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen". (Ministry of Healing, 143)

My Prayer Today:

"Lord, help me to preach more with my actions than what I do with my verbs."

My Thoughts _____
