

Message Discussion Guide Week of April 28, 2024

Message: Walking the Talk, Part 4: Exorcising Demons

Key Scriptures: Mark 5:1-20
Preacher: Heather Shoffstall

Message Highlights:

We all like to feel comfortable, safe, and secure. We want our routines and schedules, our patterns, and predictability. So much so that when we are asked to do something outside our comfort zone, something we cannot control, most of the time, our answer is "no".

- We like what is comfortable & familiar.
- What we know or what we know to expect.

The area that Jesus and his disciples land in is called Gergesa. It is not a Jewish area and unclean. How do we know this?

- The Pigs Leviticus 11:7
- The Gentiles (Non-Jewish people)
- The Graveyard If a Jew comes in contact with the dead or graves, they become unclean.

The demon-possessed man was hardly human- he was basically an animal. Everyone had tried to help him but could not. Until Jesus came along. Jesus drove the demons out and the man was found dressed and in his right mind.

Jesus saw the man for the person he was. Underneath that rough exterior is a hurting, frightened, broken human being who needs someone to love them so they can bloom, grow, and regain their sense of integrity, identity, and self-worth.

Whatever mission field that God calls us to, we should not be surprised to face opposition, but rather expect it. Satan will try to derail us.

While Jesus did not leave the demon-possessed man "follow him," he did send him out to spread the gospel. The ultimate outcast became the ultimate evangelist.

Discussion Questions:

- 1.) What does your comfort zone look like? Is it a place or a frame of mind?
- 2.) What are the demons that cause you doubt and to question Jesus?

3.) Read Mark 5:1-20:

- a. Why does Jesus want to go to the other side of the lake? Did this answer change from last week?
- b. What is your understanding of "unclean"?
- c. Why would the people of Gergesa have been upset about the demons being driven into the pigs?
- d. Why does Jesus NOT let the man "follow him"?
- 4.) Are you obeying what God has called you to do? Is there a time where you heard God's call and did not obey?
- 5.) What will Dutilh Church become as we seek Christ in this community by Loving God, Loving Others, and Loving to Serve?
- 6.) What is your primary takeaway from this message?