

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

15- God of the Down Cast Mark 5:1-20

It is true that most of us have looked at life from the top but equally true is most of us have looked at it from the bottom. We meet one such man in the gospel of Mark. We also meet the God of the down cast.

I- The Bottom of Life:

Talk about a man being homeless and downcast. He lived in the mountains and among the tombs in the cemetery. And to make matters worse he was demon possessed and suffering.

Mark 5:1-5 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. 2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

This man was on the bottom of life. Have you ever felt you were there? Most of us have not been in as bad of shape as this man, but all have their own problems. Paul said in *1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

The psalmist realized that he was on the bottom of life when he wrote *Psalms 40:1-3 I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.* This brings us to the next place.

II- Our Circumstances Recognize the Savior:

Notice the recognition of the Savior by the demons. *Mark 5:6-8 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, 7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. 8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.*

Regardless of where we are in the valley of life the Servant Master is there and knows. *Mark 5:9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.* Perhaps today if we asked this question the answer may be debt, illness, depression, doubts about the future, guilt from the past, anger, or a host of other things.

III- Driving the Pigs Crazy:

Mark 5:10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. 11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. 12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. 13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: Want to know what will drive a pig crazy? We see an example here, the demonic forces that were against this man. They drove the pigs to the point of suicide. 14 And the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. In the course of life most of us are faced with things that will drive us crazy if we continue to hold onto them. They will run us off a cliff if we do not give it over to God.

IV- When God Moves So Do Others:

Notice the reaction of the ones who were involved in these events. *Mark 5:14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.* They run and tell.

They investigate in *Mark 5:15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind:*

Notice the reaction of these men. *Mark 5:15...and they were afraid. 16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. 17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.*

God was moving and these men were moving away from it. The sharp contrast to those who did not want anything to do with Jesus and the man who was delivered is stark. He was, *sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind,* they were begging Him to leave. When God moves, we either move closer, or we are uncomfortable.

V- Using our Past Struggles:

Paul told us in the Corinthian letter that God uses our past hurts and struggles to equip us to help others. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

The man in the story wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus turned him back to the people around him. He told him to go and use what God had done for him to bring others into the presence of God. *Mark 5:18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. 19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. 20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.*

Beloved lets us our past struggles to help others along the way. Lets turn our present problems over to the one that calms the winds and the waves.