

“Reversing Demonic Consequences”

Mark 5:1-20

Introduction

In the same way that garbage attracts roaches and standing water attracts mosquitos, unaddressed unrighteousness in our lives attracts demons. In Mark 5:1-20 we are introduced to a man experiencing the crisis of demonic oppression. When Jesus asked him what his name was he responded, “legion; for we are many.” (v.9). The unclean man was relationally isolated, he was self-harming and in emotional distress. All the while, human efforts to stop him were futile because demonic consequences cannot be set right with human interference. It wasn’t until the demonic presence confronted Jesus that the man experienced healing.

Some of us find ourselves out of control because we have invited unchecked sin into our lives, and that sin has invited the opportunity for demonic oppression to occur. However, we find that just as with the unclean man from our text, the consequences of demonic oppression can be reversed when we address the issue spiritually. There are three steps to confronting demonic oppression in your life: demonic oppression must be brought face to face with the person of Christ, the Word of Christ, and the power of Christ. While the man was still out of control, something drove him to the person of Christ, “Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him (v.6).” Upon running to Christ, God spoke and His power was demonstrated by the driving out of the legion.

Notice that the reversal of demonic consequence did not stop at the man simply being free from oppression. While he did receive spiritual transformation, we also find that he was personally transformed as they found the man “sitting down, clothed and in his right mind (v. 15).” This man had gone from socially detestable to socially acceptable within moments of encountering the Christ. His transformation went even further to turn him into a witness for Christ; in verses 18-20 the man had experienced such a U turn that he wanted to go with Jesus. Instead Jesus had a mission for him to fulfill as he was to stay and proclaim the goodness of the Lord through his healing.

If you are experiencing the consequences of demonic oppression you are not without hope. While human efforts will not fix you, submitting yourself to the Lordship of Christ can cause you to do a complete 180 in your lives, not only giving you freedom from demonic activity but restoring you in such a way that people will now look to you and see your God glorified.

Getting Started

1. We’ve all seen movies where people are demon possessed, their heads are spinning and they are levitating. How has this sermon informed or changed your perception about what demon possession is?

Let’s Get Personal

1. Demon possession brings mental, emotional and physical destruction into people’s lives. It is possible that what you thought may be out of control or even mentally ill behavior can be the result of demonic oppression. Have you experienced demonic activity in your own life or seen it in the lives of others you know?
2. As we learned from the message, demonic oppression is the result of unchecked sin in our lives. What changes will you make in light of your understanding of demonic activity?
3. After the unclean man received healing he was ready to live for Christ. When we receive healing from God, do we approach the work of Christ with the same conviction and passion?

Take the Next Step

1. Demonic oppression is reversed when it comes under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Lordship concerns our level of submission to Christ. Is there an area in your live in which you have yet to submit? Confess this with your group.
2. Want to go deeper? Take time to look at the follow passages: 1 Corinthians 10:20-22; Ephesians 6:12; Luke 11:24-26; Revelation 9:3-6; 1 Timothy 4:1-5; Jude 1:6-7; James 3:13-16; Deuteronomy 32:17; 1 Corinthians 10:20-22.

Renew Your Mind

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Ephesians 6:12