

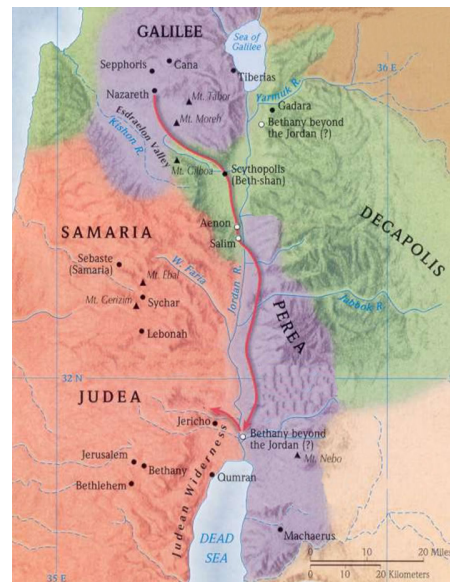
THE LIFE OF CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS
Class #184 – Sunday AM1 December 2, 2007

It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

- The Lord had come down from Capernaum to the Sea of Galilee.
- The Lord taught in parables from that point onward.
- The Lord slept through a great storm while the disciples were frantically bailing water because they were not trusting in Him in light of all He had already done.
- The Lord calms the sea and tells the wind to be quiet – and the elements of nature obey Him.
- The disciples are frightened by this demonstration of authority.
- They finally land on the East side of the Sea of Galilee.



Mark 5:1-8 They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. ² When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him,

- This is a case of demonic possession.
 - An individual is indwelt by one or more demons.
 - Only UNBELIEVERS can be demon possessed.
 - The demon manifests a controlling influence over the individual [*soul and body*].
 - There were actually two men who suffered from demon possession, but Mark only mentions one.
 - Further accounts are in **Matt. 8** and **Luke 8**.

³ and he had his dwelling among the tombs.

The reason he lived among the tombs was the people kicked him out of the city because all the attempts they made to control him had failed.

And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

One characteristic of demonic possession is supernatural strength.

⁵ Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

- Matthew states, “*They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.*”
- Luke mentions that one of them was totally naked.
- This is a real disturbing scene; extremely violent; totally degrading.

This was a sad situation because this man is constantly tormented.

⁶ Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;

- The demon is controlling this man.
- The demon recognizes who Jesus was – that He was the eternal Son of God.
- That’s why he “bowed down before Him.”
- The demon was controlling the man - using his physical body, speaking through the man.

⁷ and shouting with a loud voice, he said, [*corrected translation*] **and shouted in a great voice, saying** “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!” ⁸ For He had been saying to him, “**Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!**”

- **λέγω** – **LEGO** - Indicates repetitive motion picture action.
- The Lord has been commanding the demon several times to come out.

This is a battle!

A battle not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of wickedness.

- As the Lord commanded the demon, the demon fought as hard as he could to resist obeying the command of the Lord.

Luke 8:29 For [γὰρ] He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For [γὰρ] it had seized him many times.

- **Had seized** – **συναρπάζω** - *To violently seize; to force*
- Our Savior had compassion upon a man who was demon possessed.
- The Lord is exuding compassion regardless of the sins that opened up a door to demon possession.

As Ambassadors of our Lord, we must focus on the issue of the Gospel message.

- This man is a product of his own bad decisions.

Remember that whatever you sow – from that you will also reap!

- Oftentimes we really do not comprehend the ramifications of our decisions.

Nonetheless, if we turn to the Lord, He is merciful.

Mark 5:9-20 And He was asking him,

- ἐπερωτάω – EPEROTAO – *To demand*
- This is a battle in motion.
- The Lord demanded over and over again.

“What is your name?” And he said to Him, **“My name is Legion; for we are many.”**

- Legion in the Roman army was composed of 6000 troops.
- This man is indwelt by thousands of demons.
- This would account for his supernatural power required to break through whatever had bound him.

¹⁰ And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

- **Country** – χώρας – CHORAS - *A space; a tract of land*
- This was referring to the man’s body.
- The man’s body is seen as a country occupied by foreign forces.

¹¹ Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. ¹² The demons implored Him, saying, “Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.”

This request from the demons is recognition of the sovereignty of Christ.

¹³ Jesus gave them permission.

- Jesus did this through a command - ὑπάγετε – HUPAGETE - ***Y’all get!*** - **Matt. 8:32**
- *Leave; proceed!*

And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.

This miracle is important because it demonstrated that Christ was not in league with Satan after doing this!

¹⁴ Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened.

When things are taken away from you, who do you turn to?

Who should you turn to?

¹⁵ They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the “legion”; and they became frightened.

- They were terrified at the authority of the Lord – what He can do.
- The Lord has authority over all things.

¹⁶ Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine.

Do the people rejoice in this victory over the demonic world? No, they do not!

¹⁷ And they began to implore Him to leave their region.

The Lord does not go where He is not welcome – He taught the disciples that in **Matt 10:14**.

He commanded them to leave the house or city and kick the dust off their feet.

¹⁸ As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. ¹⁹ And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.”

- The Lord wants this man’s life to be a testimony to those who knew him.
- This man is now an evangelist – a missionary of sorts.
- As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, your life ought to be a testimony to those you come into contact with.
- Believers ought to stand out and be different.

What things would you speak to a new believer about?

- ✚ The Angelic Conflict?
- ✚ Fellowship with God – sin – rebound – **1 John 1:9**?
- ✚ Word of God as spiritual food – the priority of feeding on the Word.
- ✚ The enemies of the believer – THE WORLD – THE FLESH – THE DEVIL.
- ✚ Would you mention prayer? Would you pray with them?



²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.