



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 19.03.2023

“He Seeks and Saves”

Preacher

Pastor Joshua Plumb

Scripture

“26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes,[a] which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” 29 For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

30 Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. 31 And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

32 A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. 33 When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34 When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, 35 and the people went out to



see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. 37 Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

38 The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him."

Luke 8:26-39

Thought

We sometimes struggle with being considered lost, but we know that Jesus assumes the best of humanity and reminds us that our 'lostness' is an accurate statement of our situation rather than a judgement of our character. Lost people aren't necessarily bad or immoral or unintelligent - everyone gets lost from time to time, and most often we never intend to get lost. We're just looking for the right path to the right destination.

In this passage, we see Jesus approached by a man who was lost. The state of the man is a picture of the effect of a world which God created to be good and lovely, but to which evil has intruded. He was naked, he had wounds, he was exposed and vulnerable. He had no place to call home and he lay among the tombs. It's a picture of the rightness of creation becoming disordered and disfigured.

This picture has some resonance to our journey. We sometimes feel exposed, we carry wounds on our soul which make us sensitive to the words or actions of others. We too sometimes carry a sense of restlessness and struggle to find a sense of 'home'.

The truth is, that Christ is the only place where we find our true home, our true rest. Our soul's desire is to breathe in deep the rest that only He can bring, and He crosses oceans to find us and offer us that rest.



He frees us from the chains that bind us. He clothes our insecurities and covers our wounds. He leads us out of the graveyard - that place where there is lost hope, broken dreams, distanced relationships and offence. He leads us from a lifeless place to a place of life and hope.

Let us not camp in desolate places anymore. May we allow Him to move our story forward - to find healing and hope in the eyes of our saviour, Jesus - the one who sees us, loves us, and comes to us from afar to redeem us from the brokenness we are in.

He comes for the one, to make us whole, to give us hope.

Discussion Points

1. What assumptions do you think people made about the afflicted man in this passage (prior to Jesus' arrival on the scene)?
2. What stands out to you about how Jesus engaged this man?
3. What does this passage show you about the character of Christ, and how does that apply to your life in your current circumstances?

Personal application + Prayer

Jesus,

Thank You that Your desire is to see the lost find home. May I truly discover what it means to find rest in You, to be unbound by my brokenness, and to lead others to You, Lord - the One who brings wholeness and draws us out of desolate places.

Continue to open my heart and mind to Your true heart and mission - to seek and save the lost, starting with me. I submit myself afresh to You, to Your will and Your restorative work in my life.

Amen