

Demon Possessed Man

- What is the most frightening thing you have ever seen? Let's look at a very frightening man!

Note: this study is not centred on demon-possession or exorcism, but on how life is changed after a man meets with Christ. There were three aspects of conversion: his Condition, his Change, and his Commission.

1. *His Condition.*

Mark 5:1-10

- Paint picture of a strange man. Believe it or not you can learn from how this insane man, who lived naked in a graveyard and cut himself with stones, changed when he met Jesus.
- As for us today, what are people today living for? (Money, studies, pleasure)
- What is our purpose? What difference does our life make? Are we restless, always looking for more?
- Cut with stones--how do we hurt ourselves today? (Self-destructive habits, worldly sins).
- He was controlled by evil spirit. What are some things we are controlled by? (Money, sex, peer pressure.) Share something of yourself, of a sin that has controlled you.
- This man was also scared. What was he scared of? (Jesus: he said, "Swear to God you won't torture me.")
- Why do you think people today are scared of facing the truth? (They don't want to admit the condition they are in, that they really need help.)

2. *His Change*

Mark 5:11-20

- If you were one of the crowd, what changes would you notice in this man (vs 15-16)? (...sitting there at dressed and in his right mind.)
- What do you think made a difference in this man's life? (He met Jesus.) But what did Jesus do that really changed him? (Jesus believed in him and helped him to get rid of the demons in his life.)

2 Corinthians 5:17

- What does it mean to be a new creation? (Ask Christians to share what it means. Not just a mechanical thing, reading Bible, going to church but an inward change of thoughts, motives, desire and purpose).
- Encourage those who need to look into becoming a Christian and experiencing this change to do so.
- Why did they plead with Jesus to leave? (He challenged the people – especially those herding the pigs which were unclean animals - Lev 11:7. Did they have an attitude to see their own need and kneel before Jesus?)
- What are our needs before Jesus?

3. *His Commission*

- What motivated the man to spread good news? (The mercy shown to him.)
- Do you think he found it hard to share?
- Why do you think we find it hard at times to share our faith with others?

Conclusion.

- We must realise our condition and that we are lost without Jesus.
- We need to make a firm decision to change, not just initially to become a Christian, but also as we grow and mature in the faith.
- As Christians, we have been commissioned to share our faith. It is our mission in life – Matt 28:18-20.