



Jesus Sets The Captives Free

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Bulletin VCMJ16

30 July 2014

The storm is over. The ship has crossed over to Gadarenes on the other side of Galilee. And now comes the miracle (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39). Could this have been the reason behind the stormy opposition?

- 1) The demoniac dwelt among the tombs. He was so fierce that he could not be tamed as he broke every restraining chain. No man could pass that way. He has had devils for a long time. He wore no clothes and could not live in any house but was driven of the demons into the wilderness. Night and day he cried in the mountains and in the tombs and cut himself with stones (Matthew 8:28; Mark 5:1-5; Luke 8:27).
- 2) Though the situation was dire, yet Jesus was unfazed. Victory comes when a person is not defeated by the facts but wholly believes in God's word.
- 3) When he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him. And "... cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not" because Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man (Luke 8:28-29; Matthew 8:29; Mark 5:6-8). Demons recognise Jesus and those indwelt by Jesus (Acts 19:15).
- 4) In answer to Christ's question "What is thy name", he said "My name is Legion: for we are many" (Mark 5:9; Luke 8:30). Isn't it amazing how 6000 demons can cram into one person?
- 5) The demons besought (i.e. pleaded with) Jesus about their fate - signifying their knowledge that they cannot resist nor disobey a command from Jesus. They specifically requested to be allowed to go into a herd of about two thousands swine (Matthew 8:30-

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

31; Luke 8:31-32; Mark 5:10-12).

- 6) On being granted their request, "Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked" (Luke 8:33; Matthew 8:32; Mark 5:13). Jesus permitted them to enter into the 2000 swine that perished because the soul of one man is worth more than that of multitudes of swine (Mark 8:36-37). The devil is a thief and only comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus gives life (John 10:10).
- 7) Those who fed the swine fled when they saw what happened, and told it in the city (Matthew 8:33; Mark 5:14; Luke 8:34,36).
- 8) Their story drew out the whole city and others from nearby areas to see for themselves what had happened. To their surprise, fear and amazement they "found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind" (Matthew 8:34; Mark 5:14,16; Luke 8:35). Testimonies are powerful! Capitalise on its power for God.
- 9) A combination of wonder, fear and possibly anger over the loss of the swine made them to ask Jesus to depart out of their coasts, and Jesus did (Matthew 8:34; Mark 5:15,17; Luke 8:37).
- 10) The delivered and healed demoniac desired to go with Jesus, but Jesus sent him back to his community to declare to the people what great things God had done for him. This one man's testimony was so powerful that he won the entire community to Jesus (Mark 5: 18-20; Luke 8:38-39).