Devotional: Week 1

Scripture: Mark 5: 1-20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Insight

In this scripture, we find a man separated from his family and from his own sanity, but still with enough common sense to walk to Jesus for healing. After Jesus had just done a miracle in this man's life to heal him, it is no wonder he wanted to stay close by Jesus. One might think that Jesus would accept this man's plea to follow him. Instead, Jesus recognized a greater importance. This man needed to be restored with his family and talk about what Jesus had done for him.

Sharing

Take time to read the above scripture during the week (individually or as a couple). Consider printing it out and hanging on the fridge, or leave a bible open to this chapter.

Talk about any insights you gained from the passage, including:

- Why it is important to share what God is doing in your lives
- What God has been doing in your life
- What you would like to see God do in your life

Pray (individually or as a couple) for God's blessing in your spouse's life and any healing needed.