**SPRING QUARTER THEME – JESUS CALLS US– CALLED FROM THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY. JESUS LOVES EVERYONE - ONE WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS.**

***GOSPEL OF MARK***

**MARCH 26 2023**

LESSON #4 SPRING QUARTER 4TH SUNDAY 03/26, 2023

“JESUS OVERPOWERS LEGION”

Devotional Reading – 2 Corinthians 10:1-6

Printed Lesson Text – Mark 5:1-13, 18-20 NIV

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND

**The Gospel of Mark.** Who wrote it? John Mark, a cousin of Barnabas and traveling companion or “Road Dog” of the Apostle Paul.

When was it written? With help from The Apostle Peter between the 50’s and 70’s A.D.

What is the point? This man Jesus does more than talk; He makes things happen.

Perspective - \* The Gospel of Mark is an active, energetic book and many people prefer action to long periods of study. Jesus is a mover and a shaker, seldom standing still. He had a busy and full life. There was much work to do, and He got it done. But He did not burn Himself out. He was careful to take time to recharge through prayer and rest. And He always made time for children and needy people.

UNIFYING LESSON PRINCIPLE: There are people who shun many of those that are on the margins of society as if they just don’t matter. What can be done for those who are marginalized? After Jesus heals a man marginalized by an extremely disabling condition, He directs him to give witness of his transformation to his community.

LESSON OBJECTIVES: Upon of this completion lesson, the students will be able to do the following:

1. Compare and contrast contemporary symptoms and consequences of mental illness with those experienced by the man in Mark’s story.
2. Confess the ways that they (or their churches) misjudge or stigmatize people.
3. Raise awareness in the community of services available for treating mental illness.

Take a look at the Devotional Reading: **2 Corinthians 10:1-6**

From 2 Corinthians chapter 10 there is a reminder that we all are called to share the message of hope with others. But before getting involved in the lives of others, we need to examine our motives. God cares not only about what we do in his service but why. Are we helping others for reasons of personal gain or because we are sincerely concerned about them? The willingness to listen and be teachable are necessary preparatory ingredients for spiritual growth to discipleship.

CATCHING ON TO THE WORDS - Share with the students the correct pronunciation and definition of the following:

1. Unclean – (verse 2) Greek (aka’thartos)(ah-kah’-thar-tos) A word meaning unfit to use in worship to God.
2. Dwelling – (verse 3) Greek (katoiki’a)(kah-te-key’-ah) A word referring to a house, apartment, or other place of residence.
3. Fetters – (verse 4) Greek (desma’)(thes-mah’) A word meaning something that confines. Chains and shackles for the feet.
4. Adjure – (verse 7) Greek (ekliparo’)(ek-lee-par-oh’) To appeal to earnestly; to command.
5. Forthwith – (verse 13) Greek (ame’sos)(ah-may’-sos) A word meaning immediately, without delay or directly.

EXPOSITION AND APPLICATION OF THE SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:1-13, 18-20 NIV

From the commentary on page #271 under Introduction entitled “Demons Are Not Forever.”

Scripture speaks of the existence of beings known as “demons” or “unclean spirits”. Contrary to the opinions of many, demons do exist. They exist as evil spirits with malicious intent. They exist everywhere on the earth, facilitating the work of Satan. What are demons? Demons are evil, fallen angels who follow Satan and do not follow God. When Satan was cast out of heaven, many angels fell with him and evil abounded in them. (See Ezekiel 28:15)

Demons are powerful spirits, and the Bible clearly indicates that human beings should not play around with or underestimate them. However, it is important to remember that demons/unclean spirits or fallen angels are defeated enemies of our all-powerful God. (See 1John 4:4; Ephesians 2:2)

EXPOSITION AND APPLICATION OF THE SCRIPTURE. Mark 5:1-13; 18-20 NIV

1. The Demoniac’s Desolation. Vs 1-5

After openly and publicly healing the demon-possessed man, Jesus faced some “pushback” or strong opposition from people of the nearby town. The demons had in fact left the man and entered a great herd of swine feeding by the mountains nearby, causing them to run wildly into the lake to be drowned. The people of the town were very frightened by this and begged Jesus to leave. We may experience similar opposition when God begins to make changes in us. Friends and family alike may feel threatened and turn on us. We should not feel surprised or discouraged but keep trusting in God to lead us and we will be able to help our loved ones in ways they never imagined. God’s power to change lives was demonstrated as Jesus cast out an evil spirit. Jesus has the ultimate power and we need to recognize our problems and sins, confess them honestly, and call on the name of the Lord to set us free from their grip.

1. The Demoniac’s Deliverance. Vs 6-13

As we often fall prey to our many weaknesses in life, we as children of God go through a process of several stages. First, we claim that we’ll never fail in any certain way. You know saying “I got this” kind of thinking. Then we find ourselves doing exactly what we promised we would not do. Next we realize that we’ve messed up miserably. From there we end up with two choices. We can call on the Lord and work to overcome and learn from the experience, or we can wallow in it and never reach the point of deliverance and restoration.

1. The Demoniac’s Desire and Destiny. Vs 18-20

The life of this demon-possessed man was disastrous indeed. Desperately in need of healing from demonic influence, he was a physical and emotional wreck, an embarrassing social outcast in a hopeless situation. But as hopeless as his outlook on life was, Jesus, our Lord and Savior, had and still has today the power to break the bonds of evil and set us free. No matter what obstacle we face, Jesus loves us and He desires our complete freedom from any evil influence if we just call on Him.

Reflection Points

1. Discuss the change in the man in our story before and after Jesus healed his body.
2. Does witnessing a miracle of God guarantee belief in God?
3. What can we learn from this powerful story of when God’s healing is experienced in life.

**HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

***For Next Week (March 27- April 02, 2023) SPRING QUARTER***

**THE EMPTY TOMB.**

**MON.** Mar. 27: “The Stones Would Shout” (Luke 19:28-40)

**TUES.** Mar.28: “Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem” (Luke 19:41-48)

**WED.** Mar. 29: “If Mortals Die, Will They Live” (Job 14:1-15)

**THURS.** Mar. 30: “This Is My Body” (1 Corinthians 11:22-34)

**FRI.** Mar. 31: “Why Have You Forsaken Me” (Psalm 22:1-2,7-19)

**SAT.** April 01: “Deliver My Soul, O Lord” (Psalm 22:20-31)

**SUN.** April 02: “The Angels Call the Women” (Luke 24:1-12)