



# An Encounter that Transforms Lives

Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Introduction:** All of us have a story and those stories have one thing in common, our lives were radically changed when we encountered Christ.

Jesus brings hope and freedom to people who seem to have no hope. He gives faith to the faithless and peace to the confused. He has a way of taking impossible situations and making them possible.

- He takes a man or woman who used others to support their addiction and transforms them to be servants in his kingdom.
- He takes a battered and abused heart and transforms it to a heart of love, compassion and forgiveness.
- He takes a mind that is filled with anxiety and fear and transforms it to one filled with faith and courage.

The gospels are filled with so many examples of men and women whose lives were transformed when they encountered Christ.

Mark writes in his gospel of one such story in chapter 5:1-20

The details of this story reveal that the people of this town had lived with this situation for a very long time. Society had given up and saw this as an impossible case for which there was no solution.

Jesus had just calmed a violent storm in chapter four and now he encounters a man who had a violent storm within.

**There were three forces at work in this story, Satan, society and the Savior.**

**Satan** - The devil's only mission is to kill, steal, destroy and hold people captive to their habits and fears. (John 10:10)

**Society** – All the people of this town could do was isolate, label and bind the man. They tried but they couldn't help.

It's no different today, for all the good society tries to do to help people, when it comes to satanic powers and sin only the savior can transform a life.

**Savior** – Even when all hope is lost with God all things are possible there is no life that Christ cannot change.

Satan destroys lives, society is limited to change lives but the Savior transforms lives.

**The Savior reaches people even in the least likely places (V 1)**

1. Jesus was entering a gentile town.
2. This man came out of the tombs.

According to Jewish Law anyone who came in contact with the dead was unclean and had to go through ceremonial cleansing or else be cut off from Israel. (Numbers 19:11-14)

3. Jesus was in an area where pigs were raised which were considered unclean (Leviticus 11:7; Deuteronomy 14:8)

Jesus encounters a man with an unclean spirit, among unclean tombs, surrounded by people working an unclean job, in an unclean gentile town.

**The Savior cares about the hopeless V 2-5**

This story is one of the saddest stories of human misery recorded in the gospels.

He was a terror to himself and to others and the statement further amplifies this, "no one could bind him not even with chains."

His condition is described as that of an animal and even worse he could not be tamed or controlled.

It would seem that the powers of darkness did not want Jesus to enter this region. First the violent storm sent to kill them and now a violent man sent to scare them away.

### **The Savior turns rage into respect V 6-7**

This man usually ran upon others with rage, but he ran to Christ and fell in respect and reverence.

The power of God in Christ did what could not be done with chains and shackles.

This man's fury and rage was all on a sudden restrained. This man came to his senses long to worship Christ, the power of the devil in and over him for this instant was suspended.

### **The Savior comes to set people free V 8-13**

The power of Christ prevails over darkness because he came to set people free.

Acts 10:38 ... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

I John 3:8b ...for this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

### **The Savior turns a life of misery into a life with a message (V 18-20)**

**Conclusion:** All of us have a story and those stories have one thing in common, our life was transformed when we encountered the savior. Both outer and inner storms can be calmed by the power of the Savior. Let's tell someone about it!