

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

Go and Tell

Mark 5:19-20: Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel

The maniac of Gadara, who once terrorized the countryside with ravings and violent acts, now sat composed and in his right mind at the feet of the Lord of Hosts. No more bestial howling at midnight, no unpredictable outbursts of outrageous calamities, no further, futile attempts to bind the madman with ineffective chains, for with one powerful command the devils were cast out and the victim was delivered. A man who once lived only to satisfy his own craven desires now wished to follow the One who broke asunder the bonds of dereliction and charted a new course for a soul adrift and bereft of purpose and positive destiny. But curiously, the Lord refused his application to join the college of the twelve. There was a greater mission to be accomplished by his remaining in Decapolis and providing a constant witness to the saving power of the gospel of Christ. What a marvel he was to those who knew of this infamous menace. All efforts to convert the lunatic proved to be ineffective. No program of rehabilitation, no amount of incarceration, no effete pagan incantations proved effective in soothing the savage spirit that raged within the restless bosom of the maniac of Gadara. Only Jesus could have done this "great thing" and the maniac was only too willing to give Him the credit as he published the good news throughout those ten cities that he once terrorized.

The dramatic conversion of a demon-crazed man should have brought great joy to the community of the Gadarenes, for here the greatest menace to the area was brought to a place of docility and calm. One would think that Jesus would have been honored and praised for the miracle, but instead, they bade Him "to depart out of their coasts". Behold the contradiction and folly of unbelief!

Though it may be met with ridicule, scorn, and unbelief, we are instructed to "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee". The account provides no more details of the effect that that one conversion might have had upon those friends and relatives that witnessed the transformation of this liberated maniac.

Be a good witness today,

Pastor

Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17