

# “Undignified Ministry”

## Matthew Chapter 8

Matthew 4:23, Matthew wrote, “Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.” He described Jesus’ teaching ministry in chapters 5-7. Now we see some detail on Jesus’ healing ministry.

Mat 8:1

### 1) Jesus Heals a Leper vs 1-4

When Jesus came down from the mountain, large crowds followed Him.

- Jesus came down from the Mountain Top experience and ministry met Him right away.
  - We had seen Jesus go up to the Mountain not to get away from people but to provide a separation from the crowds and His disciples. He then would teach His disciples.
  - But Jesus didn’t forsake the crowds. It would be easy to stay on the Mountain Top. But Jesus knew the ministry the Father had given him.
  - Jesus was not a one dimensional minister. He Taught, He Healed, He Washed Feet, He Taught Children, He Prayed, He did Visitation in People’s Homes.
  - Many times I have seen people who serve the church become one dimensional. Their one task is so important they do not do children, or home groups, evangelism, or serve in other ways. Jesus example is so much better.

Mat 8:2

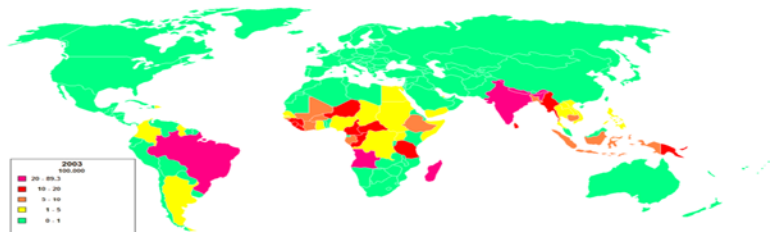
And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

- A Leper Came to Him - What was a Leper?

Leprosy is an infectious disease that has been known since biblical times. It is characterized by disfiguring skin sores, nerve damage, and progressive debilitation.

Symptoms include:

- Skin lesions that are lighter than your normal skin color
  - Lesions have decreased sensation to touch, heat, or pain
  - Lesions do not heal after several weeks to months
- Numbness or absent sensation in the hands, arms, feet, and legs
- Muscle weakness



- Leprosy is a picture of SIN.
  - Leprosy in the ancient world was considered a judgment from God because of sin. The Leper was not allowed in the camp in the Moses day not allowed in the city in David and Jesus’ day. If travelling and coming upon people the leper must declare, “UNCLEAN, UNCLEAN” nor the word sick. But “UNCLEAN” The Pharisees would spit and throw rocks at lepers to keep them away and to show how much they detest the sinner.
  - 1. It begins small, subtle. (a spot)
  - 2. It is deeper than just on the surface.
  - 3. It is painless in its first stages.
  - 4. It grows slowly.
  - 5. It often remits for a while and then returns.
  - 6. It numbs the senses - one cannot feel in the afflicted area, it desensitizes.
  - 7. It causes decay and deformity.
  - 8. It gives a person a repulsive appearance.
  - 9. While it may no longer be contagious it can and will affect others.
  - 10. Only curable by God. The Priest does nothing to cure. He is an observer.
- What group is your leper? Homosexuals, a Particular Race, Murderers, Drug addict, A Fallen Christian
- The Leper’s Question tells of his hopeless rejection.
  - “Are You Willing?” Religion just rejects the sinner. How many times has he cried out for help and his cries falls on deaf ears. It is different with Jesus.
  - He knew the Jesus could. He called Jesus LORD (1<sup>st</sup> time Jesus is called Lord in New Testament)
  - Matthew knew his audience would know this word for Lord as “Yehweh”

### Mat 8:3

Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

- Jesus does something remarkable here. He doesn't stand from a distance and pronounce his cleansing. That would be remarkable. But what Jesus does here causes everyone to notice. He stretched out His hand and touched him.
  - In the next encounter Jesus only sent His word to heal. He did not need to touch the Leper. He didn't need to, He wanted to.
  - Mark 1:41 "**Moved with compassion**, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him"
- Imagine the disgruntled Levite Matthew watching this. Jesus is not like the priests who stood back and judged. Here is a man who touches the life of sinners.
- "I Am Willing" - What wonderful words for the leper to hear. What wonderful words for you and I to hear. Jesus is willing to heal you and me.
  - These words should change your assumption. Often we assume Jesus heals, and He will heal others but not me. That is an assumption. These words should change our assumption. We should assume Jesus is WILLING to heal unless He tells us differently.
  - Paul, in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 assumed Jesus would heal until the Lord told him differently.
- Immediately he was cleansed. This shows the power and authority Jesus has. It didn't have to go to committee for this to happen.

### Mat 8:4

And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go, show yourself to the priest and present the offering that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

#### 1) Tell No One!

- This is one of those things that I wish I knew the answer to. Did Jesus really expect the Leper to keep it a secret that he had been cleansed?
- I believe Jesus knew he would tell, but what He wanted was to follow the Law and present himself to the priests and fulfill the requirements for healing.
- Secondly, I believe Jesus knew that this type of miracle would certainly draw bigger crowds who were there to see a show and perhaps increase undesirable fame or notoriety as a miracle worker or liberator and work against His true mission from God.
- Mark 1:45 "**But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.**"

#### 2) Show Yourself to the Priests

- Matthew must have loved this. That Jesus sent the healed leper to the priests as a testimony to them. This is what their religion should be doing. Not rejecting and hurting but drawing and healing.
- Jesus also wanted maximum benefit for the man who once had leprosy. Jesus wanted him received back into society and that could only be done with the priestly ritual.

#### 3) Present the Offering

- In Leviticus 14 we are taught the process for cleansing the leper. This possibly wasn't done very often in Israel if ever. The priest would have to have looked this up to perform it.
- Leviticus 14:1-7 "*Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing. Now he shall be brought to the priest, and the priest shall go out to the outside of the camp. Thus the priest shall look, and if the infection of leprosy has been healed in the leper, then the priest shall give orders to take two live clean birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop for the one who is to be cleansed. The priest shall also give orders to slay the one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water. As for the live bird, he shall take it together with the cedar wood and the scarlet string and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was slain over the running water."*

- This ritual was done outside the camp v.3 Jesus was taken outside Jerusalem
- Two Birds are Taken - Birds are "heavenly" beings v.4 Jesus was from heaven
- One bird was put in an Earthen Vessel v. 5 Jesus took on Human Flesh
- The Bird was slain v. 5 Jesus was killed
- The Cedar wood v.4 + 6 Jesus was nailed to a wooden Cross
- The Scarlet string v.4 + 6 Throughout the Scriptures there is a scarlet thread that points the Jesus' Crucifixion
- Hyssop v.4 + 6 Jesus was offered a drink with the Hyssop
- Living water & Live Bird v.6 The Holy Spirit Raised Jesus from the Dead
- Living Bird is Freed and rises again to heaven v.7 Jesus ascended to Heaven
- This was an eight day process and required sacrifice and washing and shaving of all his hair two times and finally a Public Declaration of being Clean. **Jesus didn't ignore the Law but came to fulfill it.**

Mat 8:5

## 2) Jesus Heals a Gentile vs 5-13

And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, imploring Him,

- Matthew 4:13 tells us that Capernaum was Jesus' home base.
- A centurion came to him. A centurion was an officer in the Roman Army. A centurion signed up for a minimum of 25 year duty. The rank was a powerful authority where he was stationed.
- Luke 7:3-5 says "When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders asking Him to come and save the life of his slave. When they came to Jesus, they earnestly implored Him, saying, "He is worthy for You to grant this to him; for he loves our nation and it was he who built us our synagogue."
  - This particular centurion seemed to have a unique understanding and regard for the Jews and the Jewish faith.
  - This was not the norm. The Roman Army oppressed and took advantage of the people whose land they occupied. And this was legal under Roman law. Jesus taught if someone forces you to go one mile with him go with him an extra mile. This was referring to the common practice of the Roman army to grab anyone at anytime to carry his gear as they marched.
  - When Levi collected taxes there was a Roman soldier standing by giving the authority of Rome to the tax collectors.
  - Gentiles were regarded as "fuel for the fires of hell" by the Jews.

Mat 8:6

and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented."

Mat 8:7

Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

- Again this centurion shows a compassion for his servant. Under Roman law a Roman could kill his slave if he became ill or no longer useful to him.
- A Pharisee, A scribe or rabbi would not step foot in a gentile's home.
  - Matthew loves this departure from what the hypocritical Pharisees would do.
  - Jesus was willing to touch the leper. Jesus was willing to go to the Gentile's home. And not any gentile but a representative of the oppressive occupying force.

Mat 8:8

But the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Mat 8:9

"For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does *it*."

- We see again that this centurion has a great understanding. In this case he understands the authority that Jesus has.
- Possibly the understanding the awkwardness of the custom of a rabbi coming to his house may have caused him to state that Jesus only needs to send His word and his servant would be healed. The centurion has a clear understanding of the power that the word from an authority carries.
  - Some may try to point out a discrepancy between Luke's account in Luke 7 and Matthew's account here. Matthew has the centurion coming to Jesus. Luke has some Jewish elders who were sent by the centurion.
  - The original language in Matthew allows for either to have happened. Matthew could have recognized that the words of the elders were communication from the centurion and bypassed the intermediary elders.
  - I believe the difference between the two is incredible divine plays on words that demonstrate to the reader that the word sent has the same authority as the person being there.
  - What does this say about the word sent to us through this divine instrument called the Holy Bible?

Mat 8:10

Now when Jesus heard *this*, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel.

Mat 8:11

"I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

Mat 8:12

but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- **Jesus marvels.** Jesus marvels 2 times in scripture.
  - Mark 6:6 in Nazareth He marveled at unbelief.
  - Here He marvels at faith.
  - Jesus takes notice of faith and lack of faith. In your life which is He marveling about?
- **Jesus commends the gentile centurion.**
  - A gentile had greater faith than any in Israel.
  - It shouldn't have been but it was the true condition.

- **Jesus reveals something about heaven**
  - Many from East and West. Other nations and peoples will be there.
  - People will recline speaking of a rest that those will have.
  - At a table we will dine and be satisfied.
    - Isaiah 25:6 "The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine."
    - Song of Songs 2:4 "He has brought me to His banquet hall, and his banner over me is love."
  - We will be known and know and sit with the Patriarchs, Apostles, Kings and Saints.
- **Jesus shocks the Jew with a new concept.**
  - This was a new revelation to this culture of Jews who believed because of their heritage they have entrance into the Kingdom of heaven.
  - There will be Jews who will be "fuel for the fires of hell"
  - Jesus was not afraid to speak about hell and a warning that man will be cast out to hell.

Mat 8:13 **And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed that very moment.**

- With the leper immediately he was healed.
- With the centurion, when Jesus sent the word "that very moment" the servant was healed.
  - The same sense is present in creation Genesis. God spoke and it was.

Mat 8:14 **3) Jesus Heals a Woman** vs 14-17

**When Jesus came into Peter's home, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick in bed with a fever.**

Mat 8:15 **He touched her hand, and the fever left her; and she got up and waited on Him.**

- Jesus goes to a third place. Peter's home.
  - Where ever Jesus went there is ministry opportunity. The same is true with us. We simply need to open our eyes and ears and be ready.
- We joke about mother-in laws. That like the leper of the oppressive roman gentile; mother-in -laws are not the most wanted people.
- The truth is that in Jesus day women were not necessarily given the regard that God originally designed for them.
- Here we see that this woman didn't ask. She didn't speak faith filled words. But Jesus simply saw the need and healed her.
- In her gratitude, she arose and served the Lord.

Mat 8:16 **When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.**

Mat 8:17 **This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."**

- The healing continued. In the evening many came who needed healing and deliverance.
- Jesus healed ALL!
- He cast out devils with A WORD. Speaking about authority. A WORD! Not an all night vigil asking the demon's name and how many. Just A WORD! I wonder what the word was. Perhaps --- OUT!
- **Isaiah 53:4 "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."**
  - **Isaiah 53:11-12** says He bore our iniquities and our sins. We know he not only heals our physical bodies but He actually raises our spirit from the dead by wearing our iniquities and sins so we do not have to.
  - **Does He heal always all the time?**
    - In Capernaum he healed all. At the pool of Bethesda (**John 5**) when the waters were stirred He only healed one. With Paul (**2 Corinthians 12**) He did not heal the thorn in his flesh.
  - **Why?** I do not know except that I know Jesus wants our devotion whether He has healed us in this life or not. And for the believer, we are assured that if we are not healed in this life, then in heaven there is no sickness and no sorrow and

This section of Matthew's Gospel shows four different people being healed, each one different from the other.

- i. Different people were healed.
  - A Jew with no social or religious privileges.
  - A Gentile officer of the army occupying and oppressing Israel.
  - A woman related to one of Jesus' devoted followers.
  - Unnamed multitudes.
- ii. Their requests were made in different ways.
  - A direct request from the sufferer, made in his own faith.
  - A request from one man for another, made in faith on behalf of a suffering man.
  - No request was made because Jesus came to the sufferer, so there was no evidence of faith from the healed.
  - Sufferers that were brought to Jesus, with different kinds of faith.
- iii. Jesus used different methods to heal.
  - Jesus used a touch that was forbidden.
  - Jesus used a word spoken from afar.
  - Jesus used a tender touch.
  - Jesus used a variety of unnamed methods.
- iv. From all this we understand that physical healing is an area where God especially shows His sovereignty, and He does things as He pleases, not necessarily as men might expect. (Guzek)

Mat 8:18

#### **4) Jesus Instructs the Immature** vs 18-23

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.

- It doesn't take Jesus much time and the crowds are again around him. Again, he seeks to separate Himself and His disciples from the crowds.
- Like the additional effort to go up the mountain that separates the disciple from the gawking crowd Jesus orders His disciple to get in boats and cross the sea to the other side.
- Again, a disciple has to leave, A disciple has to obey, A disciple has to do things the crowd will not commit to do.

Mat 8:19

Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

Mat 8:20

Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

- A scribe was a well educated person who provided a service to kings, governors, priests, to business and to an illiterate society. They were lawyers, journalists, historians, librarians, accountants and secretaries. They were a very important part of the culture to record and preserve agreements and edicts and to document events for a population who could not read or write.
- This particular scribe was caught between the crowd and being a disciple. The language of verse 21 implies the scribe was a disciple because Matthew uses the words "*another disciple*".
- This scribe understands that it takes a 100% commitment to follow be defined a disciple. He says "*I will follow wherever you go.*"
  - Wouldn't it be great if all those who call Jesus Lord would have this commitment to obey and follow as the words of this scribe say.
  - But this scribe more likely thought that this little group would benefit greatly from my services.
  - Spurgeon said, "*I wonder if this man thought, 'Well, now, I am a scribe. If I join that company, I shall be a leader. I perceive that they are only fishermen, the bulk of them; and if I come in amongst them, I shall be a great acquisition to that little band. I shall no doubt be the secretary.' Perhaps he may have thought that there was something to be made out of such a position;*"
  - But too many are like this scribe and express their devotion with self seeking agendas and when they discover the cost they show little to no follow through.
- Jesus hears the exuberant devotion but sees that the scribe doesn't know what he is devoting himself to. Jesus paints the picture for him. "*Foxes have holes and the birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere*"
  - Some take this as Jesus was homeless and penniless. This is not true. The Lord could have a coin from a fish's mouth to pay taxes. He stayed at Peter's house in Capernaum.

- Jesus was expressing that to follow would mean a cost that is different than other people. You cannot have Christ and the World.
- There is a marked distinction between the crowd and the disciple. The disciple has counted the cost and pays the price to be a disciple. The crowd follows as long as their interests are served.
- "Son of Man" - Jesus uses the term Son of Man to describe Himself. It is used 80+ times in the gospels and usually by Jesus or by someone describing Jesus.
  - The Jew knew that this term described the Messiah. It is from Daniel 7:13-14
  - Daniel 7:13-14 "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed."

Mat 8:21 Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

Mat 8:22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

- Another disciple came and desired to follow yet was distracted with other duties he felt obligated to.
- "Permit me first to go and bury my father." This was not necessarily that this disciple's father had died and he needed the afternoon off. His expression was that he still had allegiance to his father's household and desired to wait to follow until his father had died and was buried before he followed. This could drag on and on.
- D.A. Carson "If the scribe was too quick in promising, this 'disciple' was too slow in performing."
- "Let the dead bury the dead" Jesus often spoke about the cost or weight of being a disciple to those who wanted to follow. It was as though He was discouraging followers. The truth is that Jesus wants TRUE FOLLOWERS not those giving lip service.
  - In this instance Jesus is saying that family obligations should not be put in front of following Jesus. .

Mat 8:23 When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.

- It was the disciples who obeyed and followed that got into the boat. It was the crowd that stayed behind who didn't obey and follow Jesus but stayed to follow what served themselves best.

Mat 8:24 **5) Jesus Focuses the Faithless** vs 24-27

And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.

Mat 8:25 And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!"

- What a remarkable truth. Here we see people stepping out in obedience, following Jesus' orders to get in boats and to sail to the other side; are they rewarded with God's favorable winds? NO!
  - Storms, rough storms enter into the lives of disciples, even those doing the will of God.
  - This storm is fierce so much that the waves were rising and falling over the boat and filling the boat with water.
- We have here people who were raised by the sea. As boys they began sailing and fishing on this very sea. They knew how to sail, and they know the hazards and knew what a bad storm was. These men in this storm know the situation is bad, and so bad that they are convinced that they will perish in this storm.
  - No doubt as God teaches us His character and ability, He can take us through storms so fierce that in our perspective we are perishing.
- Another remarkable point in this account is that Jesus is asleep in this very same boat where others feel they are perishing. The disciples are panicked and Jesus is in peace.
  - Jesus had a confidence in His Father's care guidance to fulfill His will.
  - The disciples had more confidence in what they saw in the circumstances around them.

Mat 8:26 He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

Mat 8:27 The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

- Jesus Rebuked the Winds and the Sea. He didn't rebuke the disciples. He didn't kick them out of the boat. He was training them He wasn't through with them.
- We saw in verse 10 that Jesus notices Faith and Lack of Faith. Here it wasn't the storm that awoke Jesus it was the disciples little faith.

- He didn't say "NO FAITH" he said little faith. Sometimes as disciples we have little faith. We have fear and our little faith knows what to do. Go cry out to Jesus. At times I don't have faith to calm the storm. But I do have enough faith to go to Him who can.
- This storm accomplishes exactly what the Father wanted it to do.
  - "*What kind of man is this?*" The lesson has re-focused the hearts of the disciples. At the beginning of the journey they feared the storm. Now they fear the Son of Man who commands the winds and the sea.
  - How many times does the Father re-focus our hearts to see the Son of Man as he really is?

Mat 8:28

## 6) Jesus Delivers the Demoniacs vs 28-34

When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.

Mat 8:29

And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

- Jesus and His disciples arrived across the Sea of Galilee to the country of the Gadarenes.
  - This was an area to the east of the Sea of Galilee and east of the Jordan River.
  - It was the area of the Decapolis (Ten Cities) one of these cities was named Gadara.
  - Gadara was the capital of the Roman province of Peraea, thus the region was named after the city.
  - The area was settled by the Greeks after Alexander the Great and was still mostly Greek during the time of the Roman occupation and the time of Jesus.
- Two demon possessed men met Jesus and His disciples.
  - The other gospels mention only one. This is possibly due to one of the men being more dominant in the interaction than the other.
  - The demon possessed men lived in the tombs. Graves were unclean to the Jew. These men lived among them. Pigs were also an unclean animal. Swine were being raised in this area. Can you imagine the disciple's reaction to having to minister to unclean people in an unclean land?
  - The text says they were "*extremely violent.*" **Luke 8:29** says "*For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.*"
- The demons spoke to Jesus calling Him the "*Son of God*".
  - Earlier Jesus referred to Himself as the "*Son of Man*". It is as if the demons knew who Jesus was but denied the Messianic promise. **Daniel 7:13-14** (see Matt 8:20) it is foretold that the Messiah would be given ALL dominion and ALL would serve Him. The demons were denying the Word of God by saying "*what business do we have with each other?*"
  - **James 2:19** "*You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.*"
  - If both believe what is the difference between the disciple and the demon?
    - The disciples follow Jesus and His teaching.
    - The demon believes in Jesus existence but doesn't follow him or His teaching.
    - Many people claim they are Christians because they believe in Jesus' existence, but their faith is no better than that of the demons.
- They asked of Jesus had come to torment them before the time.
  - The demons knew that their time was limited. Their goal was to destroy the plan of God in hope of changing the outcome of their future. But they know they only have a fixed amount of time to accomplish this.
  - The battle still rages today with the philosophies, thoughts and speculations from demonic origin to destroy God's plan. The demonic effort is futile. And you and I have a part in this battle.
    - **2 Corinthians 10:3-6** "*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.*"

Mat 8:30

Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them.

Mat 8:31

The demons *began* to entreat Him, saying, "If You *are going to* cast us out, send us into the herd of swine."

Mat 8:32

And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd

rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.

- These demons know the authority of the "Son of God" They know Jesus will cast them out. Demons want to infect and destroy. They do not want to be simply out. They request to be sent into the swine.
- Jesus permits this. Why?
  - To demonstrate that the men were delivered completely.
  - To partially deal with disobedience of the people to raise an unclean animal.
  - To show the true intent of the demons was destruction of the host.
- The swine immediately react to the demonic possession. They rush to destruction. The swine seem to prefer destruction rather than demonic possession.
  - Spurgeon - "Swine prefer death to devilry; and if men were not worse than swine, they would be of the same opinion."

Mat 8:33 The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs.

Mat 8:34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region.

- The herdsmen ran and reported what they saw to the town's people. You would think that they would be pleased about the deliverance from these violent crude demonic men. But this is an additional sign of the spiritual condition of the region.
  - Raising of pigs.
  - Demonic Men and no way to deal with them.
  - Deliverer rejected, asked to leave.
- Paul Harvey had a radio show called "The Rest of the Story" Luke 8 and Mark 5 tell the rest of the story.
  - Mark 5:18-20 "As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed."
  - Luke 8:38-39 "But the man from whom the demons had gone out was begging Him that he might accompany Him; but He sent him away, saying, "Return to your house and describe what great things God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him."
  - The rest of the story is the demoniac wanted to leave the region and follow Jesus. This is what a good disciple does. Jesus instructed him to stay and proclaim to his hometown people the great things Jesus had done.
    - What about Bible College? What about discipleship? He is a new believer, is he capable to accomplish the assignment? Isn't there a risk of him falling into the same sin and possession?
    - Jesus knows what He is doing. And in our lives sometimes He will use us where we have no experience and without the conventional training and assistance.
- The "Rest of the Story" continues.
  - In Mark 7-8 Jesus return to the area of the Decapolis and there is healing and large crowds that follow and Jesus feeds four thousand. It seems that the ministry given to the demoniac was effectual.

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