

Come Out of the Tombs and Walk

Jerry Cisar — June 30, 2019

Text: Matthew 8:28 – 9:8

Introduction: ... by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God!

This authority with which Jesus is commanding people, storms, demons, and disciples, brings life!

The Sermon on the Mount are words that proceed from the mouth of Jesus with that same authority (7:29), and therefore, to “*put them into practice*” is to start living!

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What does it mean to say that Matthew 8–9 are not about Jesus’ authority merely in an abstract sense, but about authority exerted to bring life? Can you show this from the text?
- What are some of the ways we see that people live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God (4:4) demonstrated in Matthew’s Gospel after the temptation scene?
- Why is sin self-destructive behavior? How do the pigs demonstrate the self-destructive effect of demonic intrusion?
- What are some of the ways that violence manifests itself in your own life? How does the word of Christ lead you to life?
- How does sin separate us from community?
- Has guilt paralyzed you from doing God’s will? How so?
- Discuss: “We are not forgiven by doing the commands of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount; rather obeying Jesus demonstrates Christ has changed who and what we are with a word.”
- How do the people of the *Gadarenes* community reveal the cost of entering the Messianic community?
- What does 9:2 reveal to us about what Christ has declared you to be when He forgives your sins through the Gospel?

I. The Violence of Sin (8:28-34)

A. These demoniacs coming out of the tombs represent all of us.

- i. Ephesians 2:1-3
- ii. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.
 - a) Genesis 6:11
 - b) Matthew 8:8
 - c) Isaiah 2:3-4

In the Sermon on the Mount, the Law has gone forth from the mouth of Jesus and transforms violence into peace. These demoniacs demonstrate this!

iii. Identifying the Violence in Your Life (Matthew 5:21-22)

- B. Jesus casts the demons out!
 - i. Jesus casts out a whole host of self-destructive demons with one word.

- ii. Self-destructive Demons

Sin is self-destructive behavior. Sin is *trying to live* contrary to what we were made for. Just like these pigs, trying to swim.

- C. Dirty Hands and a Pure Heart
 - i. If we are going to join Jesus in His mission, we are going to have to be willing to get our hands dirty.
 - a) “Blessed are the pure in heart...” (Matt. 5:8).
 - b) If we follow Jesus, we are following Him to unclean places of the world... lives that are broken and need cleaning.

- D. Are you willing to join in the Messianic community?

*We would rather be ruined than changed,
We would rather die in our dread
Than climb the cross of the moment
And let our illusions die.* — W. H. Auden, “The Age of Anxiety”

These two demoniacs which were so violent are now able to join the community of the Messiah and live in the kingdom of heaven, but the town full of “normal” people is have no interest in such a relationship!

- i. Jesus’ authority asks us “to lose our lives for his sake. Only the Son of God has the authority to ask for our lives” (Hauerwas).

- ii. The authority that asks us to lose our lives is the authority behind every word of the Sermon on the Mount.

II. The Paralysis of Guilt (9:1-8)

- A. If we are going to make it out of the tombs into full living, we have to be freed from the guilt of our sin.
 - i. This man’s guilt is paralyzing.
 - ii. Many people are paralyzed by guilt.
 - a) Sadly, even many Christians, whose sins are forgiven, remain on their mats.
 - b) In the Gospel, Jesus declares: “Your sins are forgiven!” That’s enough to enable you to walk! To start living the life God made you to live.
- B. Forgiveness of sins means healing of paralysis.
 - i. *Salvation doesn’t distinguish between parts of a human. But it has a starting point... the forgiveness of your sins!*
 - ii. When the Gospel says your sins are forgiven, Jesus intends to set your whole life free.

When you rise up and walk in obedience to Jesus, you aren’t earning the forgiveness of sins, you are demonstrating that your sins are forgiven.

- a) What were you?
- b) What has Christ declared you to be? (9:2)