

I am Legion

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Give Times of next weekend:
- B. Mention Holy Week Devotions: Handout.
- C. Slide#3 *Not Today, the movie*: Kelly & Paula just previewed. The movie was spearheaded by Yorba Linda Friends Church. It's about the **trafficking of kids** in **India**, specifically the **Dalit** people (the lowest people in the caste system).
 - 1. It's playing in **select theaters**....the closest to us being Anaheim, Brea, Irvine, San Marcos, and San Diego. Opening day is April 12th. <http://nottodaythemovie.com>
- D. Slide#4 *For King & Country*: April 14th. Here at CM. Gen. Admin. \$15. Doors open at 6pm. [Vip is \$20, includes early admission, reserved seating & Q&A w/band] (played on Leno; M.Huckabee)
 - 1. Tony in info booth sign ups for helpers & selling tickets?

II. Slide#5 **Intro: I am Legion**

- A. **Intro**: Jesus & his disciples just went through **one storm** on Galilee, & then they *blew right into* one more...in Gadara.
 - 1. As we read & study this story about a demon possessed man this morning, we will approach it this way:
 - a) We will **affirm** the *biblical reality* of **Satan & his host**. **But** in doing so we will **refrain** from promoting an *unhealthy fascination* our enemy.
 - b) **Our goal** is to **reveal Satan's purpose** and then **demonstrate Jesus' power** over evil forces & His **ability** to **heal the harm** which they have done.
- B. **Legion** – 3/6000 in a Roman legion. [this *army of intruders*, in 1 man] **I am Legion**.

III. Slide#6 **THE DEMONIAIC**

- A. Slide#7 **Decapolis** (vs.20) – Gk. **deka**(10) + **polis**(city).
 - 1. Eastern side of Galilee.
 - a) **Damascus, Syria** (most Northern city). **Amman, Jordan** (most Southern). [also **Jerash, Beth Shean**]
 - 2. Slide#8 Picture of where they believe this took place.
 - 3. Now, they just survived a close *drowning*, I'm sure they just want to get on **dry land!**
 - a) I bet they were scrambling to get off first...**then** came **Legion** running to meet them.
 - 4. **No Jews** in this boat would have been comfortable here, for at least 3 reasons: It was *Gentile-ville, Pigs-ville, & deads-ville*.
 - a) **Gentiles** were unclean, **Pigs** were unclean, **close contact with the dead** would make you unclean.

B. **Slide#9 This man lost everything!**

1. His home, fellowship with family & friends, his decency, self-control, peace, purpose for living.
 - a) **I picture** his eyes black, shifty, darting around like lightening; his face grimaced, distorted, framed w/a distressing look; his brow stuck in furrowed position; his hair unkempt, matted & mangled; his teeth brownish/orange from stains; breath that could melt a candlestick; body odor...not a stench to “high heaven”, but an aerosol from hell itself; his body naked with no dignity; nails over grown & curling like claws; arms bloody, scabbed, from self-mutilation; ankles adorning fetter anklets from previous botched attempts of chaining. His home...a cave w/a continuous smell of decomposing human corpses. No discipline, no authority, no restraint!

C. **Slide#10 Possession**

1. **Steps/Stages:** It would appear that an evil spirit **seduces** a man, & the man **yields**, & that **repeatedly**, **until** presently he becomes **completely mastered** by the evil spirit. **In that sense he is possessed by it.**
2. **His thinking** is under its *mastery*; **His emotions** responds to its *impulses*; & **his will** is *dominated* by the demon.
3. **Everybody is going to be possessed by something or somebody.**
 - a) God didn't design the human heart to be a **vacuum** **but** to be **occupied** by Jesus.

D. **Slide#11 (5) Cutting himself** – Self mutilation [Self-harm (SH) deliberate self-harm (DSH) self-injury (SI)]

1. **Today** - The most common way of **self injury** is cutting oneself, often repeatedly, with sharp objects like **knives**, **razor blades**, or **sharp glass**. It is estimated that 80% of self mutilators are **women** who are usually in their teens and early twenties.
2. **Cutting is often done to cope w/whatever is causing stress** [Temp relief, from neg feelings]
 - a) **You** might deal with it by taking a **run**, **bike ride**, go to a **movie** **something to take your mind off your cares.**
3. **Cutting** is a serious issue, & can lead to a lifetime of shame & despair. It can't be ignored. [*parents eyes wide open*]
4. **Several types:** **Experimental Cutter** (no reason, just experimenting). **Show-off Cutter** (self explanatory); **Shock Cutter** (for shock value). **Rebellious Cutter** (to make you cry, causing misery for someone else) [**Starts getting more serious**]
Self-Punishment Cutter (deeper in the issues, demands counseling, recovery process, i.e. Needs help w/thinking patterns behind the actions of cutting). **Distraction Cutter** (hard to imagine pain so great that *creating more pain would take the focus off the original pain*). **Coping Skill Cutter** (have you ever been so mad you just wanted to punch something? Anger builds up, intensity increases, &

bam it happens. Cutting becomes their *release of intensity!*). **Mental Issues Cutter** (mental problems are rooted in incorrect thinking patterns).¹

- a) “**Cuts** on an arm uncover **gashes** on a soul.” (me)
- b) **Obviously in our story**, the demonic takes cutting, *if its not extreme enough*, to a whole new level of *extreme*. [Elijah vs. 450 Baal prophets, **So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, w/knives & lances, until the blood gushed out on them**]

E. **Slide#12** Here we have Jesus **fulfilling**, to the **uttermost**, His **Purpose** for coming...*for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.* :)

IV. **Slide#13 THE DELIVERER**

- A. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy** the works of the devil. 1Jn.3:8
- B. **Slide#14a Satan** tried to **destroy** these men; **but Jesus** came to **deliver** them!
 1. **I've come to set the captives free.** He came to bring **new hope. Freedom.**
 2. Everyone's life has been **marred & spoiled** by the Devil *in some way*.
 - a) It's our very desire for our *Celebrate Recovery* meeting on Thurs nights at 7pm. **To help set free** those who have gotten ensnared in life's destructive *Hurts, Habits, Hangups*.
- C. **What does the fate of the pigs show, about what the demons were trying to do to the man?**
 1. What the demons did to **the pigs** is what they wants to do to **all** of God's creation. **His whole desire is to kill & destroy.**
 - a) **Slide#14b** The thief does not come except to **steal**, and to **kill**, and to **destroy** (then Jesus says) **I have come that they may have life, & that they may have it more abundantly.**Jn.10:10
- D. **Slide#14c Note:** He calls him **a man** (8)
 1. He **didn't look** like a man; **didn't smell** like a man; **didn't act** like a man.
 2. What **dignity** He gives to one we would probably call *an animal, beast, or monster (if not worse!)*
 3. **Sin** made him anything but a man - **But Jesus** sees us not for what we **are**, **but** for what we **can be** by his power & grace! [He saw: *Made in the Image of God* stamped on him. He saw *a set free soul*. He saw *an evangelist*. He saw *a man*.]

V. **Slide#15 THE DEMONS**

- A. **But what about the 2000 pigs committing sui-sui-suicide?** - Jesus, what about P.E.T.A? (*Pigs Entering Treacherous Areas*) - That doesn't seem very nice.
 1. **Slide#16a** What does this show you about the **value** Jesus places on **the man?**

¹ Mark Gregston, Heartlight Ministries, <http://www.crosswalk.com/family/parenting/self-mutilation-teens-and-cutting-11565978.html>

2. Slide#16b I guess according to Jesus, **People matter more than Pigs!**
 - a) It's ok that approx 3.5 million hogs are slaughtered daily worldwide for a tasty meal of bacon or pork(1.3 billion a yr.); but 2000 to *restore* a broken man?
 3. This doesn't mean Jesus had a lack of concern for animals but simply the greatness Slide#16c of His concern was for **people!** *Even this man!*
 - a) Also, it is convincing evidence that he really had been **set free!**
 - b) And, it was an indication of **Jesus' power** to **destroy** all that is **evil or unclean!**
 4. **And as a side light, The Gadarene Swine Law** says, **Merely because the group is in formation does not mean that the group is on the right course.**
- B. Slide#17a *Imperfect tense* pictures graphically the disappearance of *pig after pig* into the sea.(13)
1. Slide#17b Does that mean pigs would rather be **dead then demon possessed?**
 2. Slide#17c It is encouraging to note that *the demons did not know* what Jesus planned to do.
 3. Slide#17d Do you think demons just *camouflage* themselves better in our society today?

VI. Slide#18 THE TOWN FOLK

- A. When those who *slopped the hogs* went to tell the townsfolk. What do you think was the 1st thing they told them? **"Legion has been healed"** or, **"The pigs have drowned"**.
1. Slide#19a What does this tell you about **their priorities?**
 - a) **"The material loss out weighed the spiritual gain."**
- B. The **sad** part of this whole story, are **the towns people** who **didn't even recognize** they were Slide#19b being *controlled* by the same Devil, **just in more dignified ways.** :(
1. **See**, this miracle was just **a little bit too expensive.**
 - a) Jesus was **a little too dangerous** to have around.
 - b) He's interfering w/**Property & Profit.**
 - c) Slide#19c They preferred...**Hogs** over the **Healer; Swine** over the **Savior.**
- C. **Imagine asking Jesus to leave you?**
1. **Poem:**
 Rabbi, be gone! Thy **powers** bring loss to us & **ours.**
 Our ways are not as **Thine.** Thou lovest men, we, **swine.**
Oh, get you **hence**, **Omnipotence**, & take this fool of **Thine!**
 His **soul?** What care we for his lost **soul?**
What good to us that thou hast made him **whole**, Since we have lost our **swine?**
 And Christ went sadly. He had wrought for them a **sign**
 Of Love, & hope, & tenderness divine; They wanted - **swine!**

Christ stands w/o our door & gently **knocks**;
 But if our gold, or swine, the entrance **blocks**,
 He forces no man's hold – He will **depart**,
 And leave us to the *meanness* of our **heart**.²

VII. Slide#20 THE MISSIONARY

- A. Slide#21a Here we have the **1st Missionary** to the **Gentiles!** (*not Paul*)
- B. Salvation is a miracle. It **changes lives**. This man was *sitting & clothed in his right mind*.
1. **Maybe an important note for some**, He **saved him 1st** before He did anything about **his clothes**. [so often we want the outside dealt with 1st]
 - a) **Clothed & in his right mind...**The Lord changes our very nature! **A completely new nature**.
 - b) Slide#21b **Salvation** is a heart experience. It is an **inside job!**³
 - c) Slide#21c It **changes lives**. It also **controls lives**. He was now *under his control* of Jesus.
- C. Slide#22 **Prayer Requests**: Interesting, Jesus answered the requests from the **demons** & the **unbelievers...** **but not** the **new convert!**
1. **Demons asked**, **Send us** to the swine, that we may enter them.
 2. **The Town folk**, began to plead with Him to **depart** from their region.
 3. **New Convert begged** Him that he might be with Him. (& he was turned down!)
- D. Slide#23 (19) **Now that he's Set Free!** Can you imagine him walking into town? Up his street. Right up to his families door.
1. (*people crying*) **"Here comes Legion again!"** & then... **"Mother, I'm home!"** (Ahhhhhhh!)
- E. For the 1st time Jesus tells someone to **go** & **tell others** about His healing.
1. **Have you made your salvation public?**
 2. **All true testimony is testimony to Jesus Christ**, as he stands on trial before the **world**. **Not...**A thinly disguised *self*-advertisement. [a testimony to what *Jesus has done*]
- F. Slide#24 **In the purpose of God**, the whole treacherous trip across Galilee had been for this **1 man!**
- G. Jesus had to leave, **but** the man remained & bore faithful witness to the **grace** & **power** of Jesus Christ!
1. He actually **paved the way** for Jesus to minister there later. **Mark 7:31**
- H. Slide#25-27 Started with ***I am Legion***...now he could say, ***I am Legend***.

² Sidlow Baxter, Awake My Heart, pg.77.

³ Jerry Vines, Exploring the Gospels Mark, pg.89