

Part 5 Called to Spiritual Transformation and Radical Life Change

So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes.

When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him.

This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.

Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.

Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him.

With a shriek, he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don't torture me!"

For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit."

Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?"

And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man."

Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.

There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby.

"Send us into those pigs," the spirits begged. "Let us enter them."

So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened.

A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.

Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs.

And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him.

But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."

So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.



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God's Universal Calls

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{Called to Personal Relationship}
  [Called to Obey and Follow]
 (Called to Suffer and Sacrifice)
  <Called to Christian Service>
   = Called to Christlikeness =
    { [ ( < = Your Life = > ) ] }
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Radical Life Change

A profound and permanent change in one's character, heart, mind, and/or soul that is the direct result of God's intentional, supernatural power.

Principle #1

Spiritual Transformation and Radical Life Change are always initiated by God's perfect love that seeks to give new life, redemption, and freedom to those that are held captive by God's enemies.

Mark 4:35

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes.

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Principle #1

Spiritual Transformation and Radical Life Change are always initiated by God's perfect love that seeks to give new life, redemption, and freedom to those that are held captive by God's enemies.

Principle #2

Spiritual Transformation and Radical Life Change are only possible through genuine encounters with King Jesus.

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The Darkness that lives within each of us will always try to resist genuine Spiritual Transformation and Radical Life Change by negotiating a small change or a temporary change.

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Spiritual Transformation and Radical Life Change is not just something they need or something that we need; it is something I need.

Who Needs It?

- Those who wound themselves in a misguided attempt to relieve their inner torment.
- Those who wound others in a misguided attempt to relieve their inner torment.

Who Needs It?

- Those who are abused, taken advantage of, or imprisoned by the enemies of God.
- Those who seem to be divided against themselves.

Who Needs It?

- Those who are forced to live amongst the tombs and the wilderness of life.
- Those who are all alone because of an affliction.

The upstanding citizens of a community who wouldn't think twice about abandoning, imprisoning and/or dehumanizing other human beings.

- Those who instinctively use rejection or force instead of love to conquer evil.
- Those who look down on one type of uncleanness only to embrace another of their own.

Those who believe in Christ but are not filled up with Holy Spirit empowered grace, compassion, forgiveness, and forbearance for others.

- Those who care more about the loss of property and money than they do the redemption of a soul.
- Those who say they believe but do not obey King Jesus.

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It is only through Spiritual
Transformation and Radical Life
Change that we can become
more and more like Christ.

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