

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 65:1-9

Psalm 22:19-28

In the midst of the assembly I will praise you. (v22)

Galatians 3:23-29

Luke 8:26-39

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, & defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 8:26-39

²⁷...As [Jesus] stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, & he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him & shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me!”—²⁹for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard & bound with chains & shackles, but he would break the bonds & be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ...³²Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; & the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³Then the demons came out of the man & entered the swine, & the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake & was drowned. ³⁴When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off & told it in the city & in the country. ³⁵Then people came out to see what had happened, & when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed & in his right mind. & they were afraid. ³⁶Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat & returned. ³⁸The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, ³⁹“Return to your home, & declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. The man is now in his right mind (v35). What do the following add about being in our right minds? What puts us in our right minds? *See Psalm 77:11; Luke 10:27; Romans 12:2-3; 1 Peter 1:14; Ephesians 4:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10; Philippians 4:7; Titus 1:15*
2. 17th C. poet Richard Lovelace wrote “Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage;” what does this Gospel story tell us about bondage & freedom? *See Luke 13:10-17; John 8:34; Romans ch6-7, 8:21; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:1, 13; Titus 3:3; 1 Peter 2:16*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. What does the Gospel writer want to convey when they relate stories about Jesus healing those possessed by demons? What kinds of bondages afflict people today? (Thanks Light on the Lessons!!) *See Luke 4:1-13, 22:31-32, 47-53; John 13:26-27*
1. Lessons C Lectionary 12 (Pr. 7) PB; June 23, 2019
4. Vv35, 37 indicate that the people were afraid of Jesus. Which is scarier to you that Jesus uses his power over the cosmic forces of evil (*Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 6:10-18; Colossians 2:15*) or that he has power over our social, political, & economic structures? (Note: he singlehandedly wrecked their local economy & power structures, vv33-34.) What makes your choice the scarier one?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. *Genesis 3:8-10* tells us that human beings are spiritual hidiers, not seekers. What insight does that give you toward your neighbors at home, work, school, & recreation? How strategic is waiting-for-others-to-see-you-out-to-care-for-them when joining Jesus on his mission in everyday life? Consider vv35, 37, 39. *See Romans 10:11-17.*
6. Congregations are great at sizing up their visitors according to their virtues & vices (aka “class”). Despite St. Paul’s words in *Galatians 3:27-28*, congregations have their “kind.” What is your congregation’s kind? What virtues are allowed & not? What vices are allowed & not? Where does room exist to grow along St. Paul’s vision? How can you take steps in that direction? *See Romans 2:1-24; James 2:1-13*

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Second Sunday after Pentecost

06.19.22

Series: Joining Jesus

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Home Again?

Jesus' mission isn't far away, it's where you are.

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [Jesus said] “Return to your home, & declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him. (v39)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Return to your home, & declare how much
God has done for you. (*Luke 8:39*)

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