

SHUT, OPEN, FILL 5.11.17

Three words with the power to change our lives.

Mark 5:1-5 'Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.'

It is important not to lose sight of this fellow's condition; this is someone's son. The story continues with this man's encounter with the Son of God, Jesus Christ – the One filled with the presence and power of the Lord God Almighty, which changed his life forever.

Verse 20: 'And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marvelled.'

They marvelled at him before and they are marvelling at him now as he evangelises ten cities; repulsed people before and is now attracting them for Christ.

Consider this transformation.

John 10:10: 'The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.'

See the contrast between the thief and the Good Shepherd, the Saviour, the Son of God.

The thief is the devil who 'comes' to steal, kill and destroy. See what was done to the man at Gadara – he was not born like this. Jesus came to expose what the thief did, and does; He came to bring life, and life abundant.

Life: Gk: 'zoe' – is the life that emanates from God; the God kind of life (beyond existence; beyond living life for yourself, this is life that flows through to benefit others); 'abundantly' Gk: 'perissos' (exceeding abundantly above and beyond) we see it in Ephesians 3:20; this is life 'above and beyond'. 2 Corinthians 9:8; Genesis 17 with Abraham meeting Jehovah El Shaddai – the God of more than enough.

The demon possessed lunatic in Gadara received more than enough life; he received enough for others.

What has the enemy stolen from you? Peace, joy, tranquillity, family, marriage, children? Must understand this is what he comes to do. The biggest thing he wants to steal from us is the image in which God created us.

God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are in conversation at creation and decide to make man in their image, in their likeness. What does this look like?

Every fibre of God's being is love. When we operate in love we are reflecting His image. When the Holy Spirit manifests His fruit through our lives (Galatians 5) – these beautiful qualities reflect Him. When people see these, they acknowledge they see a 'God person.' This is attractive. The enemy wants to steal this.

Job was reflecting God's image – his integrity identified him 'totally blameless' – the devil thought Job would let go of his integrity if God didn't bless him; things were taken from Job, but he never let go of his integrity. His health was taken for a time, but the image of God was in his heart, not just in the externals and he did not let go of his integrity.

We are not exempt from bad things happening to us, but we can stop it entering our heart. The enemy intends these things should distort the visible image of God to others, and stop us reflecting God. There is something absolutely beautiful when someone goes through the fire but don't come out smelling like smoke.

Romans 8:29 All things are for us that we be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

SHUT: any door to the enemy; there cannot be the slightest crack. Eph 4:27. The enemy is a bad tenant; don't give him room. Entry points include disobedience, offence, wounded spirit/heart, occult, idolatry (materialism, pornography), influences from generational backgrounds, the flesh. Shut the door.

OPEN: the door to Jesus. Revelation 3:20... 'Here I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hear my voice and opens the door, I will into him and dine with him, and he with Me.'

Jesus wants to restore broken images.

FILL: the void with the Holy Spirit. Luke 11:24: clean house? In order? Open door? The enemy can come back in. Fill the house with the presence of God; with the Holy Spirit, with the Word of God. Read it, meditate on it, obey it, speak it. Fill your mind with the Word of God and revelation will become transformation as your mind is renewed. The purpose: that you reflect the image of God. We are created in Christ Jesus to reflect Him, reflect His glory. Romans 8. Ephesians 4.

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