

Sermon Notes after Textual Study (Textual Analysis, Translation, Literary Analysis, Evaluation of Grammar and Key Words)

Matt 8:28-34

When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.²⁹ And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"³⁰ Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them.³¹ The demons *began* to entreat Him, saying, "If You *are going to* cast us out, send us into the herd of swine."³² And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.³³ The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs.³⁴ And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:28-34 NAU)

Text: Matt 8:28-34

Title: Revealed:

Focal Point:

Homiletical Keyword:

Interrogative:? (?)

Teaching Aim:

Introduction

- Some struggle with committing to following Christ
- Others commit but struggle with faith as they are following Christ

#Here we see a group which rejects Christ.

- He is rejected individually by disciples unwilling to commit
- He is rejected corporately by a city which sees him as a threat to their economy and way of living

Setting

When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. (Matthew 8:28 NAU)

#After they had arrived on the other side in the country of the Gadarenes

\$\$ Who are the Gadarenes?

They were met by two demon-possessed men

- They were very violent men
- Nobody would walk by them because they were so violent

\$\$ How did these demons effect their strength?

\$\$ How did the violence control the people?

\$\$ Why would the people be more afraid of Jesus than these violent men?

Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them. (Matthew 8:30 NAU)

- In this area there was a large field with swine

\$Is this how Pigs were normally kept?

\$ What kind of city would keep pigs?

Confrontation

And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29 NAU)

Two questions

- What business do we have with each other, Son of God?

\$What is the significance of this statement “son of God” coming from the demons?

\$ How is it that the demons understand who Christ is but His disciples did not?

- Have you come to torment us before the time?

\$ What is the idea of Torment?

\$ What is the time they are referring too?

Pleading for mercy

The demons *began* to entreat Him, saying, "If You *are going to* cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." (Matthew 8:31 NAU)

- They honored Christ’s authority
- They recognized they could not control these men
- Obviously what is not recorded is how these men became filled with demons, why these demons were here, what these demons were seeking, or Christ’s command for them to get out

\$Why not give any of these details?

- They began entreating Him
 - Pleading with Him
 - Begging Him
 - If we are going to be cast out send us to the swine

- Plead to enter into the pigs

\$Why go into the pigs?

\$ What does this demonstrate?

Receiving of Mercy

And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.³³ The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. (Matthew 8:32-33 NAU)

- He commands the demons to go
- They enter the herd of swine and the swine rush towards the water
- Once the men were freed from these demons they immediately took over the swine

\$Why?

- Maybe to cause destruction and inflict pain
- Maybe to demonstrate they were actually cast out

#Now vs 33 makes the scene bigger

- The farmers knew what happened to their swine
- And they also knew what happened to the demoniacs
- So clearly they were a part of the group of disciples and Jesus

#Likely they saw this group of men walking near the area of the demoniacs and they started to watch to see what would take place.

\$How did they get involved?

\$ Do any of the other gospel accounts record this?

#By what they say to the city it is evident they were in the loop.

- They were part of the discussions
- They were watching the whole event play out in front of them

\$Could they have been there to protect Jesus and the disciples as they walked through that area?

\$Could they have been there to warn them to get away?

#They were eyewitnesses to the events and they gave an account to the whole city

Rejection

And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:34 NAU)

\$Why did the city reject?

\$What did he do to merit this?

\$Why is Christ to blame for the death of the swine?

\$Could the spiritual lesson be that people reject God because they believe God should protect them from the harm of evil forces?

- Yes he delivered some from being possessed but He allowed us to be harmed in the process
- Deliver them without hurting us in any way?

\$ What do we make of the demon-possessed men pleading with Jesus and the city also pleading with Jesus? Vs 31 & 34

Conclusion

What is the significance of pleading with Jesus made by the demons and the city which rejected Christ?

Could the spiritual lesson be the consequences of mercy?

- Because Christ healed these men and cast the demons into the swine, the farmer lost his pigs, and the city was afraid?
- But for the men they were delivered
- One received mercy and deliverance while the other rejected
- One was humbled while the other hardened

Does this describe the two edged work of God which delivers some and hardens others?

\$ What does this passage teach about Christ?

Sermon Notes after Context and Commentary Study (Historical Context, Literary Context, Commentary Evaluation)

Matt 8:28-34 Responding to the Son of God

When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.²⁹ And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"³⁰ Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them.³¹ The demons *began* to entreat Him, saying, "If You *are going to* cast us out, send us into the herd of swine."³² And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.³³ The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs.³⁴ And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:28-34 NAU)

Text: Matt 8:28-34

Title: Responding to the Son of God

Focal Point: "What business do we have with each other, Son of God?"

Homiletical Keyword:

Interrogative:? (?)

Teaching Aim:

Introduction

- Some struggle with committing to following Christ
- Others commit but struggle with faith as they are following Christ

#Here we see a group which rejects Christ.

- He is rejected individually by disciples unwilling to commit
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Setting

When He came to the other side into the country of the Gadarenes, two men who were demon-possessed met Him as they were coming out of the tombs. *They were* so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way. (Matthew 8:28 NAU)

This account is parallel to Mark 5:1-20

Differences

- Two men in Matthew while One in mark

- Christ is center focus in Matthew
- Matthew does not describe how violent these men are
- The exorcism is simplified
- Simple states depart – showing Jesus authority
- The discipleship aspect is also removed

The setting is again established by Matthew recording a reference to an event, “when He came to the other side”

Just as ch 9:1 starts a new event

#After they had arrived on the other side in the country of the Gadarenes

“One of the well-known discrepancies in the gospels is the place where he disembarks. Mark 5:1 and Luke 8:26 say he arrives in the region of the “Gerasenes,” and Matthew here states it was the region of the “Gadarenes.” Both Gadara and Gerasa were cities of the Decapolis, a league of ten Hellenistic cities east of the Jordan and going north into Syria. Gersa was thirty miles to the southeast of the lake, but it had territory that reached to the lake and included a city named Khersa on the shore. Khersa could easily be the “Gerasa” of Mark/Luke. Thus the discrepancy would only be on the surface.” Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on Matthew by Grant Osborne pg 318

\$\$ Who are the Gadarenes?

They were met by two demon-possessed men

- They were very violent men
- Nobody would walk by them because they were so violent

#Much has been made about the difference between Matthew vs Mark\Luke

- Matthew records 2 men
- While Mark and Luke only One
- Some have said this was matthew’s attempt to establish a witness since deut required 2 or more witnesses to an event
- Others have thought that Matthew as adding to make up for not mentioning any others unlike in Mark’s account
- But it is also possible that there was one main speaker between the two men while the other was silent and not a prominent character.
 - This being the vocal leader and dominant one between the two

the demon possession shows that Demons seek to control people.

- As they do they bring harm to the people they inhabit and to others
- Demons are inflicting pain on others
- But this passage also demonstrates Jesus authority over the demonic world

And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." (Mark 5:9 NAU)

#They lived in the tombs: These were natural places for demons, lepers, and other driven from their homes to live because they would find privacy there since they were considered perpetually unclean.

- Many times these areas would be filled with caves and the wealthy would buy these caves and use them to bury their dead.
- The caves would provide a natural shelter for those who were outcasts

\$\$ How did these demons effect their strength?

\$\$ How did the violence control the people?

#these men were very violent so that no one could pass by the way

- Mark describes how they broke chains – act of superhuman strength
- They inflicted harm upon themselves – bruised himself
- Attempted suicide – cutting himself

#The road Jesus was walking on was their road and they were particularly possessive of it.

- This would have meant that the city would have faced great difficulty at the hands of these men
- Roads were important
- They provided easier travel
- They even had an element of security
- TO lose a road to these men would have impacted the city, especially since this road traveled down to the sea
- Likely rerouting the road around these men would have made matters more difficult, make for a longer journey

\$\$ Why would the people be more afraid of Jesus than these violent men?

Now there was a herd of many swine feeding at a distance from them. (Matthew 8:30 NAU)

- In this area there was a large field with swine

\$Is this how Pigs were normally kept?

\$ What kind of city would keep pigs?

Confrontation

And they cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29 NAU)

Two questions

- What business do we have with each other, Son of God?

#This is a very revealing question:

- They know exactly who Jesus is
- There is no doubt in their mind this is the Son of God
- They are not debating who Jesus is. While they know they have no problem being deceptive spirits seeking to mislead others by lying about Christ and creating a false Christ
- They want to know if their freedom is over

The question is a Jewish idiom “what is it to us and to you” IE we have nothing in common. Zondervan Exegetical Commentary pg 319

- Therefore leave us alone

\$What is the significance of this statement “son of God” coming from the demons?

We cannot miss the connection between the final thoughts of the Apostles in vs 27 and the first words of the demons in vs 29

- What kind of man is this?
- What do we have to do with you Son of God?
- The supernatural realm knows who Christ is
- The earthly realm is figuring out what is taking place
 - Some get it and others do not

\$ How is it that the demons understand who Christ is but His disciples did not?

- Have you come to torment us before the time?
- Have you come emphasizes the results of Jesus arrival

"For this reason, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them. Woe to the earth and the sea, **because the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, knowing that he has *only* a short time.**" (Revelation 12:12 NAU)

- The devil is very angry because his time is short
- Each day it grows increasingly shorter

#The demons are aware of their destiny and they are simply awaiting the time

- They want to be left alone before their time
- They did not know if this was the time. They too did not fully understand the full plan. They knew Christ was going to setup His kingdom but did not know this was only the inauguration of the coming of His great Kingdom.

They knew:

1. Jesus was the Son of God
2. There was a time of Judgment coming

3. Jesus had the Authority to do what He pleased

\$ What is the idea of Torment?

- The Word translated as “Torment” has the idea of “to torment” or “to torture”
- It is the idea of testing something to prove its worth
- It also has the idea of inflicting punishment as part of judgment
- This idea is made clear in Rev 9:5 as God’s judgment is poured out and the people are in torment or under punishment

They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. (Luke 8:31 NAU)

\$ What is the time they are referring too?

Pleading for mercy

The demons *began* to entreat Him, saying, "If You *are going to* cast us out, send us into the herd of swine." (Matthew 8:31 NAU)

- They honored Christ’s authority
- They recognized they could not control these men
- Obviously what is not recorded is how these men became filled with demons, why these demons were here, what these demons were seeking, or Christ’s command for them to get out

\$Why not give any of these details?

- They began entreating Him
 - Pleading with Him
 - Begging Him
 - If we are going to be cast out send us to the swine
- Plead to enter into the pigs
- The pigs were some distance away
- They were feeding on the hillside

#Clearly the pig farm tells us we are in a Gentile land

- Pigs were considered unclean by the Law and would not be prohibited among the Jews

\$Why go into the pigs?

Boice: “To give visual proof”

- Demonstrate His work and give tangible evidence to His work
- Two men healed and in their right minds
- Demons caused this as evident by their destruction caused to the swine they were sent into

\$ What does this demonstrate?

Receiving of Mercy

And He said to them, "Go!" And they came out and went into the swine, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea and perished in the waters.³³ The herdsmen ran away, and went to the city and reported everything, including what had happened to the demoniacs. (Matthew 8:32-33 NAU)

- He commands the demons to go

#Very simple and brief recording of what was said.

- This again fits Matthew's purpose of demonstrating Christ's authority
- Christ does not need to argue or persuade He simply declares

#Contrast this with modern exorcists

- Where the exorcists go on and on with people begging for the demons to leave
- They try all kinds of sayings and methods
- Modern exorcisms are as violent as the demon-possession
- Even the disciples had trouble casting out demons Luke 9:1
- But not with Jesus – He declares and there is freedom

#The moment the demons left they entered the swine

- They enter the herd of swine and the swine rush towards the water
- Once the men were freed from these demons they immediately took over the swine
- Could have been killed by the demons
- Could have been startled and they rushed to their death

#A simple google search tells you that Pigs cannot fly but they can swim

- This was a suicide mission on the part of the demons to once again inflict pain
- To the animals for sure but even economically to the feeders

BTW the Greek term here is not Herdsman or farmer. It is a participle which describes what these men were doing. They were feeding the pigs

- They could have been taking their rotation to watch over the city's swine
- Thus this final act was economic sabotage and a final way to inflict pain on man

#Evil always wishes to inflict pain on man. The devil and his demons want to harm mankind. This is why he is called a murderer

- This is another reason why playing with evil is so harmful. Because the devil and his demons have no mercy on mankind
- Contrast that to Christ who had mercy both on these two men and on the demons

\$Why?

- Maybe to cause destruction and inflict pain

- Maybe to demonstrate they were actually cast out

#Now vs 33 makes the scene bigger

- The farmers knew what happened to their swine
- And they also knew what happened to the demoniacs
- So clearly they were a part of the group of disciples and Jesus

#Likely they saw this group of men walking near the area of the demoniacs and they started to watch to see what would take place.

\$How did they get involved?

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\$Could they have been there to protect Jesus and the disciples as they walked through that area?

\$Could they have been there to warn them to get away?

#They were eyewitnesses to the events and they gave an account to the whole city

- They gave account to what happened and how it happened through what Christ did

Rejection

And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they implored Him to leave their region. (Matthew 8:34 NAU)

\$Why did the city reject?

\$What did he do to merit this?

\$Why is Christ to blame for the death of the swine?

\$Could the spiritual lesson be that people reject God because they believe God should protect them from the harm of evil forces?

- Yes he delivered some from being possessed but He allowed us to be harmed in the process
- Deliver them without hurting us in any way?

\$ What do we make of the demon-possessed men pleading with Jesus and the city also pleading with Jesus? Vs 31 & 34

#The emphasis is on them seeing Jesus and pleading with Him to leave

- They lost their livelihood
- Likely believed it was Jesus' fault

- They would also be in shock seeing the death of their animals
- They could have also feared for their lives seeing Jesus as threat greater than the demoniacs

“It could be that Matthew wants to expose the true values of the townspeople: they prefer swine to the Savior.” Zondervan pg 322

- Luke 8:37 tells us they feared Christ

And all the people of the country of the Gerasenes and the surrounding district asked Him to leave them, for they were gripped with great fear; and He got into a boat and returned. (Luke 8:37 NAU)

- Matthew likely hides this idea for a couple of reasons
- One his intention is to show that Jesus was accepted by Gentiles
- Second this would be a demonstration of Gentiles turning Christ away

#instead of welcoming Jesus they rejected Him

- They received benefit from Christ as they got their road back
- Their loss was more important to them
- And their fear of His power

#They thought Christ was the cause of the swine’s death

- The demons were
- Christ was merciful in casting them out
- The mercy of Christ lead to the destruction of the swine

#One may conclude that shouldn’t an all knowing God know not to show mercy to a group of demons who would then destroy these swine?

- Should God not show His character if evil will use His character to be more evil?
- For some the answer is yes, God should not be merciful if mercy means that Evil will hurt others. It is God’s fault for being God.
- This is not the case at all. Christ was merciful to every party even if the people should lose some swine at the handiwork of the demons
- What is revealed is not evil in God or deficiency in God but the idolatry of man who believes God must be there to make their life easier or better.

Conclusion

What is the significance of pleading with Jesus made by the demons and the city which rejected Christ?

#Matthew’s brevity in the account keeps the focus on Jesus, His authority, and the differing responses to Jesus’ Authority

- Here we have two different responses
- The demons respond by pleading and observing His commands

- The city, who was clueless about who Jesus was, responds by casting Jesus out
- If the city knew who was standing before them they would have at least acknowledged His authority even if they were unwilling to believe upon Him

Could the spiritual lesson be the consequences of mercy?

- Because Christ healed these men and cast the demons into the swine, the farmer lost his pigs, and the city was afraid?
- But for the men they were delivered
- One received mercy and deliverance while the other rejected
- One was humbled while the other hardened

Does this describe the two edged work of God which delivers some and hardens others?

\$ What does this passage teach about Christ?

\$ What does it teach about the disciples and their

While demons seek to harm people Christ demonstrates his authority over demons

- Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the World
- The demons acknowledge His authority and they flee at his command
- There is a spiritual battle but Christ is the victor

Demons have no mercy while Christ shows mercy to all. Even those who do not deserve it.

- While showing mercy evil increases, does this make God evil or wrong?

Do you recognize the authority of Christ? Do you recognize His mercy? Or are you angry with God because He is merciful and patient?

Aor Act Part
GMS
ἔρχομαι

Matthew 8:28 Καὶ ἐλθόντος αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸ πέραν εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν

And He came to the otherside into the Country of the Gadarenes,

Aor Act Ind 3pl
ὑπῆνταν

Pres Pass Part nmp
δαιμονίζομαι

Pres Mid Part nmp
ἐξέρχομαι

adverb

ὑπήντησαν αὐτῷ δύο δαιμονιζόμενοι ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἐξέρχομενοι, χαλεποὶ λίαν,

two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him, Great difficulty,

Pres Act Inf
ἰσχύω

Aor Act Inf
παρέρχομαι

Aor Act Ind 3pl
κράζω

Pres Act Part nmp
λέγω

ὥστε μὴ ἰσχύειν τινὰ παρελθεῖν διὰ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἐκείνης. ²⁹ καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐκράξαν λέγοντες· τί

so that no one is able to pass by through that way. And behold they cried out saying,

Aor Act Ind
ἔρχομαι

Aor Act Inf
βασανίζω

Impt Act Ind
εἶμι

adverb

ἡμῖν καὶ σοί, υἱὲ τοῦ θεοῦ; ἦλθες ὧδε πρὸ καιροῦ βασανίσει ἡμᾶς; ³⁰ ἦν δὲ μακρὰν

"What we And you, son of God?" Have you come here before the time to torment us? Now it was

Pres Pass Part
βοσκῶ

Impt Act Ind
παρακαλέω

ἀπὸ αὐτῶν ἀγέλη χοίρων πολλῶν βοσκομένη. ³¹ οἱ δὲ δαίμονες παρεκάλου αὐτὸν

far away from them a large herd of swine feeding. But the demons pleaded with him

Pres Act Part
λέγω

Pres Act Ind
ἐκβάλλω

Aor Act Imp 2s
ἀποστέλλω

λέγοντες· εἰ ἐκβάλλεις ἡμᾶς, ἀπόστειλον ἡμᾶς εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων. ³² καὶ

saying, "If you are going to cast us out, you send us into the herd of swine." And

Aor Act Ind 3s
λέγω

Pres

Aor Act Part Aor Act Ind 3pl
ἐξέρχομαι

Aor Act Ind
ὄρμησεν

εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ὑπάγετε. οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες ἀπήλθον εἰς τοὺς χοίρους. καὶ ἰδοὺ ὄρμησεν

He said to them, "Depart." And they went out to depart into the swine. And behold it

Aor Act Ind

πᾶσα ἡ ἀγέλη κατὰ τοῦ κρημνοῦ εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ ἀπέθανον ἐν τοῖς ὕδασι. ³³ οἱ
 the whole herd rushed down the bank into the sea and died in the water. Now the

Pres Act Part
βόσκω

Aor Act Ind
φεύγω

AAP
ἀπέρχομαι

Aor Act Ind
ἀπαγγέλλω

Δὲ βόσκοντες ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν πάντα καὶ τὰ τῶν

ones feeding [the swine] departed, and they went away into the city Announcing everything
 Fleed

P Pres Part Smp

Aor Act Ind

ἐξέρχομαι

And what happened
 Aor Act Part
ὄραω

δαιμονιζομένων. ³⁴ καὶ ἰδοὺ πᾶσα ἡ πόλις ἐξῆλθεν εἰς ὑπάντησιν τῷ Ἰησοῦ καὶ ἰδόντες

to the demon-possessed men. And behold all the city came out to meet Jesus and seeing

Aor Act Ind
παρακαλέω

Aor Act Subj
μεταβαίνω

αὐτὸν παρεκάλεσαν ὅπως μεταβῇ ἀπὸ τῶν ὁρίων αὐτῶν. (Mat 8:28 BGT)

him they beseeched him so that he might ~~be~~ depart from their region.
 pleaded with

— Same word used by demons ἐ the city - They both pleaded w/ Jesus

— Key words) to look up