

WHO'S DRIVING THE BUS?

Mark 5:1-13

I. WHAT GOT INTO ME?

- A. *"And when he had come out of the boat, there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit ..."* (Mark 5:2)
- B. A Bus Load of Personalities.
 - 1. Picture yourself as a bus load of personalities speeding down the road of life. "At different times, under differing circumstances, different people on our bus take turns occupying, or tying to occupy, the driver's seat." (James Ansell)
 - 2. It's not so much that "something gets into us," or that "something possesses us," but one of our lesser selves somehow gets the wheel and starts driving.
- C. The Passenger List.
 - 1. The Extrovert. 2. The Introvert. 3. Mother Teresa. 4. Dirty Harry. 5. My Parents. 6. The Pessimist. 7. The Optimist. 8. Strangers.
- D. *"And Jesus asked him, 'What is your name?' He replied, 'My name is Legion; for we are many!'"* (Mark 5:9)

II. WHEN MY BUS IS OUT OF CONTROL

- A. *"...and crying out with a loud voice, he said, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.'"* (Mark 5:7)
- B. When the Road Gets Rough.
 - 1. Trouble comes when the forces inside battle for control.
 - 2. When this happens, others always get hurt.
- C. I'm So Confused.
 - 1. *"I do not understand my own actions! For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...What an unhappy man I am!"*
 - 2. *"Who will rescue me from the body that is taking me to death? Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!"*

III. JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL

- A. *"And the unclean spirits came out ..."* (Mark 5:13)
- B. We Decide Who Drives!
 - 1. The purpose of religious faith is letting Jesus take control of our many selves.
 - 2. "There are many persons in me, pulling in opposite directions, many clamorous voices in the town meeting of the mind, with no gavel in the hands of a powerful chairman to bring them to order."
- C. Come Out of the Tombs! Move into the Light of Life!

Prayer Concerns: Members – Marilauren Anderson, Burney Biesel, Sarah Clark, **Dolores Dedmon, Jim Green, Harry Hart, Joe McDowell, Anne Miller, Carol Webb .. Friends** – Dr. Robin Algee, Janie Canada, Arletta Crane, Clara Garrett, Margaret Gauldin, **Benette Hobday, Debra Holt, Lawrence Lusk, Jimmy Patterson, David Smith, Alan Voss, Newborn Twins ...**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Eternal God, giver of all the good gifts of life, we come in these moments looking for strength and direction, for we confess that we so often find the way difficult.

Some of us need discipline to live the life given to us. We know what is right and wrong, but we have difficulty acting on what we know is appropriate behavior. We keep doing what we should not do, and fail to do what we should. It is not more knowledge or more faith we need, it is simply the discipline to do the right we already know.

Some of us face problems for which there are no easy solutions. We are having to learn to live with something we don't like, to accept some condition as final, and we cannot find the serenity to accept that which cannot be changed, and we reach for help.

Some of us need only to love and accept ourselves. You have created each of us a special person, and you love us, but we cannot love ourselves, and it shows in the way we live out our lives.

Give us direction! We pray for your presence with the lonely, your strength for the undisciplined, your serenity for the anxious, and your peace for those at war with themselves, for we lift this in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MARK 5:1-13

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when he had come out of the boat, there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean Spirit, who lived among the tombs; and no one could bind him any more, even with a chain; for he had often been bound with fetters and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the fetters he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out, and bruising himself with stones.

And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped him; and crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." And he begged him eagerly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him, "Send us to the swine, let us enter them." So he gave them leave. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.

SERMON SCHEDULE

In the Sanctuary:

April 1	<i>The King Is Coming</i>	Mark 5:2-13
	Palm Sunday	
April 8	<i>Have You Seen the Lord?</i>	John 20:1-18
	Easter Sunday	
April 15	<i>Easter Reflections and Anthems</i>	Chancel Choir
	(10:40 a.m. Worship Only)	

On the Radio (1450 AM):

April 1	<i>The Week That Changed the World</i>	Luke 19:28-40
April 8	<i>What Does It Mean?</i>	Mark 16:1-8