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# The Liberty of Jesus

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Witnessing the Works of Jesus

Pastor Wil Nichols

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## ***Sermon: Witnessing the Works of Jesus: The Liberty of Jesus***

Current Series (Witnessing the Works of Jesus) Messages:

- John 9: ***4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.***
- Subject: **The Blessings of Jesus** (Revelation, Impartation, Ordination)
- Subject: **The Healing of Jesus** (Wounds, Conditions, Fears of the Broken Hear)
- Subject: **The Deliverance of Jesus** (Cycle, Mind, and Control of Captivity)
- Subject: **The Sight of Jesus** (Perception, Inspection, and Vision of Sight)

### ***Lesson Text***

Matthew 8:28–34 (AV)<sup>28</sup> And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. <sup>29</sup> And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? <sup>30</sup> And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. <sup>31</sup> So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. <sup>32</sup> And he said unto them, **Go**. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. <sup>33</sup> And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. <sup>34</sup> And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought *him* that he would depart out of their coasts.

### ***Introduction***

We've been looking at the five works of Jesus in Luke 4:18, to be witnesses of them!

Luke 4:18 (AV)<sup>18</sup> ***The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,***

Jesus gives us 5 things he was anointed to do.

1. Preach the Gospel to the Poor
2. Heal the Broken Hearted
3. Deliver the Captives
4. Recover Sight to the Blind
5. **Set at Liberty the Bruised**

Last week we looked at the forth Work: **The Sight of Jesus**

- **To Recover Perception of Sight, we must Hear Jesus**
- **To Recover Inspection of Sight, we must Worship Jesus**
- **To Recover Vision of Sight, we must See Jesus**

Today we want to look at the 5<sup>th</sup> Work of Jesus, to Set at Liberty the Bruised.

“***Bruised***” is translated from the Greek word “***Thrauo***”, which means to break in pieces, shatter. It speaks to the fact that the enemy through oppression wants to break us.

He oppresses us by crushing or burdening us with abuse of power or authority; physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

The significance here is demonstrated by a condition called Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) that many Boxers and NFL football players suffer from.

It is the repetitive brain trauma (concussions) that occurs when the brain has violent impact or collision with the skull.

Among its many symptoms are early onset dementia, memory disturbances, behavioral and personality changes, Parkinson, and speech abnormalities.

This happens because the brain doesn’t heal before it is violently traumatized again, creating a bruise on top of the previous bruise. It then it happens over and over again.

The enemy uses Spiritual CTE to traumatize the soul, driving us to insanity until he breaks us. He does this by getting us to react or respond incorrectly when we are bruised.

Those incorrect responses are Reformation (Make Improvements), Confrontation (Make Enemies), and Oppression (Make us Powerless).

But Jesus came to set at liberty them that are bruised. And when he shows up, devils have to go!

Matthew 8: <sup>31</sup> So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. <sup>32</sup> And he said unto them, **Go**.

2 Corinthians 3:<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is that Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

### ***Series and Sermon: Witnessing the Works of Jesus: The Liberty of Jesus***

Recovering the Perception, Inspection, and Vision of Sight

#### ***I. Freedom from the Insanity of Reformation (Regeneration)***

Matthew 8:<sup>28</sup> And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him ***two possessed with devils***, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

The first way the enemy drives us to insanity is by responding to our bruises with Reformation. Reformation is our ability to make changes in order improve our lives or conditions. We attempt to Make Improvements!

The men in our lesson text became possessed with a Legion of devils because of Reformation.

Matthew 12:43–45 teaches when a spirit goes out of man, it comes back with seven more, and the state of that man is worse.

Most people reform themselves by conforming to the world around them.

Romans 12:<sup>2</sup> **And be not conformed to this world:** but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The problem with reforming or conforming is we always reverts back to our true self. Although we have the ability to reform ourselves, we do not have the power to maintain ourselves.

We reform to fix a struggling marriage, but we revert back to fighting; reform to be happy, but revert back to dysfunction; reform from negativity, anger, and bitterness, but revert back to it.

And like these men, reforming over and over drives us to the point of insanity. Why? Because nothing ever changes; it just gets worse and worse.

### **To get Free from Reformation, we must experience Regeneration**

Unlike reformation that conforms us to the world around us, regeneration transforms us into the will of God

Romans 12:2 (AV)<sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: **but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Reformation is something that you do, Regeneration is something that you become.

Titus 3:5 (AV)<sup>5</sup> Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

2 Corinthians 5:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

### **II. Freedom from the Insanity of Confrontation (Inspiration)**

Matthew 8:<sup>28</sup> And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, **exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.**

When reformation doesn't work, the next thing the enemy uses to drive us to insanity is responding to our bruises with Confrontation.

Confrontation is the act of confronting or opposing with defiance, conflict, or hostility. But we only Make Enemies!

The men in our lesson text become so confrontational that they were described at exceeding fierce, that is so violent that no one wanted to even come into their presence.

The primary reason for confrontation is to induce change from the other person. Most people confront and fight us because they are trying to change us. But all they do is estrange us!

The problem is that confrontation doesn't work, it simply generates more confrontation.

Galatians 6:<sup>7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Just like reformation, the more we confront, the worse things get.

## **To get Free from Confrontation, we must experience Inspiration**

We can't change people through confrontation; but can inspire them to change themselves through inspiration.

Inspiration from the Holy Spirit doesn't change people, it changes us, so we can inspire people.

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

### ***III. Freedom from the Insanity of Oppression (Liberation)***

Matthew 8: <sup>31</sup> So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. <sup>32</sup> And he said unto them, **Go**. Subjugation Weak Impotent

The Liberty of Jesus is about Setting at Liberty the Bruised; that is freeing being Bruised over and over again (Spiritual CTE):

- **To get Free from Reformation, we must experience Regeneration**
- **To get Free from Confrontation, we must experience Inspiration**
- **To get Free from Oppression, we must experience Liberation**

The devil wants to break us, shatter us into pieces. And the final way he wants to do this is through Oppression. Oppression is domination, cruelty, tyranny, and persecution until we finally relent, quit trying, become depressed, give up and become weary.

Galatians 6:9 (AV)<sup>9</sup> And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

## **To get Free from Oppression, we must experience Liberation**

Matthew 8: <sup>31</sup> So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. <sup>32</sup> And he said unto them, **Go**.

We can no longer tolerated the devil, put up and accept the devil, we've got to tell him to GO:

- Go and Get out of our souls! (Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the World)
- Go and Get out of our minds! (The Peace of God that passes understanding shall keep us)
- Go and Get out of our calling! (I can do all things through Christ that strengthen me)
- Go and Get out of our churches and ministries! (No Weapon formed shall prosper)

## **Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Liberty of Jesus)**

### **Lesson Text**

Matthew 8:28–34

### **Sermon Outline**

- I. Freedom from the Insanity of Reformation (Regeneration)
  - a. To get Free from Reformation, we must experience Regeneration
- II. Freedom from the Insanity of Confrontation (Inspiration)
  - a. To get Free from Confrontation, we must experience Inspiration
- III. Freedom from the Insanity of Oppression (Liberation)
  - a. To get Free from Oppression, we must experience Liberation

### **Questions**

- I. Getting to Know “Me”**
  1. What your main take-away from Sunday’s Sermon?
  2. What did you find most challenging, troubling, hopeful, or inspirational? Why?
- II. Into the Bible**
  1. The story of the possessed man dwelling in the tombs called Legion, is told in books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. These are known as the Synoptic Gospels. What does that mean?
  2. In Mark and Luke’s Gospel, it only mentions one possessed man, but in Matthew’s Gospel we see two possessed men. Is this a contradiction in the Gospels?
- III. Life Application**
  1. Which method have you typically used to handle your bruises (Reformation, Confrontation, of Oppression)?
  2. How would you share with others about how to handle their bruises?