Which Had You Rather Have -- A Demon or a Pig?

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WHICH HAD YOU RATHER HAVE--A DEMON OR A PIG?
Mark 5:1-20

I. Life demands we make some strange choices.
A. Where to live?
B. What to do for living.
C. Whom marry.
D. The gospel of Christ so powerful you have to choose sometime between a demon or a pig.
   1. Which would you take?

II. It happened in the "country of the Gadarenes:
A. Location.
   1. Galilee area--S. E. of sea, rolling, mt., hot springs and baths.
   2. Not a cult of "roving wives."
   3. Jesus sailed there.
B. Immediately the Man.
   1. One of Mark's favorite words.
   2. Demonic man came to Jesus.
   3. How do you picture the Christ? When on TV I had calls and letters--one found his robe 6'2" thus height made him hated by Jew--picture--poems.
      a. Do you have a picture? Some equate meekness and weakness, gentleness, and softness.
      b. But he was a worker not a dilatanti.
   4. But can you picture the man?
a. Lived in tombs.
   (1) Many wars today, unknown graves of land and sea.
   (2) Highway accidents as we kill and maim. How far are we from tombs?
   (3) Are we in a similar condition even if not place?
   (a) What about our jealousy, anger, pride
   (4) What have we (in people) isolated from ourselves.

b. None could bind.
   (1) Natives tried -- local procedures failed. Untamed!
   (2) Can't tame inner violence by outward restraint.
   (3) We today try to control the wild element -- mass hysteria, mob violence, delinquency.
   (4) Does strengthen the police force lessen the crime or must it be inward?
   (5) Are we bound by chains of busy work, conformity -- we must be respectable.

c. For amusement cried night and day and cut self with stones.
   (1) Do you see the naked, bleeding, torn, bruised condition?
   (2) Do you have pity?

C. The encounter.
1. Saw afar (love sharpens eyes -- like prodigal son), ran, worshipped, loud voice, shouted:
v-7 "What have I to do with thee
a. Running to him said leave us alone and called God's name in process.
b. But who isn't attracted to Jesus?

2. Jesus asked his name--Legion.
a. He was many.
b. God wants names--not part of a machine. Some think by being anonymous they escape the challenge.

D. Devils and Pigs.
1. Demons asked not to be put out--let us go in pigs.
2. Why'd the Jew have 2000 anyhow?

III. Pick a Devil or a Pig.
A. Villagers came to see.
1. Read verses 15-17.
2. Note Mark dryly adds they'd "heard about the pigs".
a. Is man of more value to us than a pig?
3. Please leave.
a. Couldn't stand other financial losses. (To protect one we may suffer a greater)
b. We don't like prodding consciences.
c. We have to choose--there is danger and cost involved. He cost a whole herd of swine--$60,000.00 today. Some had rather have devils if they get to keep pigs.
d. Wherever Jesus worked you saw the price of the cure--demons tore victims,
temple left in shambles after ousting, money changers read sword of Matt. 10: 34-39. But what he leaves is worth something.

IV. The Abiding Witness.
A. City refused Jesus.
B. Healed man wanted to go with Him.
   1. No you stay and tell "great things."
   2. If Christ is center, isn't it strange you have to be told to go home and tell.
   3. What great things have you received?
C. Christ had a reason for his answer.
   1. He couldn't stay being asked to leave, but he needed to leave a witness.
   2. Are we so obliging today?
   3. He equated God and Jesus--great things Lord (v-19), great things Jesus (v-20),
   4. Are we salt (Matt. 5:13)--it stays corruption. It prevents rottenness. It subdues lawlessness.

WestEnd 11-2/04
"Setting out of the Devil's Jail"

W. E. = 9-29-63
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