

Morning Lesson

REACHING OUT TO THE UNLOVABLE

Mark 5:1-20 (5:15-20 reading)

INTRO:

1. Years ago a telephone company had the slogan "Reach out and touch someone."
2. Jesus was a great "reacher-outer."
3. We are to follow his example. **1 Pet. 2:21**
4. He is our head and we are his hands and feet.
Eph.1:22, 23; Matt. 28:18-20

I. THE REALITY. Mark 5:1-5

- A. A long busy day was over and Jesus wanted to get away from the crowds, perhaps to rest.
- B. He was awakened to calm the storm and then they came to the Gadarene territory. **v. 1**
- C. Immediately this demon-possessed man met them.
- D. Imagined excuses.
 1. "I'm too tired and it's too late."
 2. "This is not my responsibility." **v. 19**
 3. "This man is not a good prospect."
 4. "If I try to help him it probably won't help and may make people upset with me." **v. 17**
- E. Jesus had a genuine concern for people.

II. THE RESPONSE. Mark 5:6-16

- A. The man ran up to Jesus and the demons are the ones that spoke through him.
- B. Jesus wanted to heal the man, not torment him.
- C. The pig herders ran into town to tell what happened.
- D. The people came out and saw the man sitting clothed and in his right mind; his life was totally changed.
- E. What was Jesus' motivation?
 1. He was sensitive to people's needs.
 2. He was willing to rely on God's power. **Rom. 1:16; Eph. 3:20**

III. THE RESULTS. Mark 5:15-20

- A. A man was changed in a dramatic way.
- B. Others were unchanged. Mark 16:15, 16. James 5:16
- C. People were taught.

CONC:

1. Do our heads and our hearts match?