



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Sermon Series // Joshua; Judges; Ruth

Supports Session 13: Redemption

Sermon Title: "Jesus, the Redeemer" (Mark 5:1-20)

Connection to Session 13

Redemption is a story that is found throughout the Bible. We learned this morning of Ruth's redemption when Boaz married her. We will see how Jesus came to redeem us from ourselves and redeem us for His glory.

Introduction/Opening

Redemption is a financial term that means to purchase back someone or something for another use. We as fallen people need to be redeemed from ourselves and our sinful nature. Jesus is the only one who can truly offer us this redemption. Not only does Jesus redeem us from ourselves, but He also redeems us for Himself. When He purchases us, He does so with the desire to use us for His glory. We see this truth lived out in our sermon text today.

Outline

1. Things Christ redeems us from

- a. ***He redeems us from a life of isolation*** (v. 3). One of the primary characters in this passage is a demon-possessed man who lived in and amongst a set of tombs. Living this way was considered to be taboo. If someone was going to live amongst tombs, then this person was to be considered ceremonially unclean. The consequence of this would be to live in total and complete isolation from others. If someone met anyone who was unclean, they would then become unclean themselves.

When Jesus got off the boat, the demon-possessed man "ran and knelt down before him" (v. 6). We can learn a great deal from what Jesus did while He was on this earth, and we can also learn a great deal from what He did not do. Jesus did not run from the unclean man. He engaged in dialogue and broke the isolation the demon-possessed man was experiencing.

- b. He redeems us from a life of self-destruction (vv. 4-5). Not only was this man demon-possessed, but he was also self-destructive. The text says that he was strong enough to break out of chains and cut himself with stones on a continual basis.

On a different occasion, Jesus compared what He came to do with what the enemy offers his victims. He said that the enemy “comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance” (John 10:10). We see this truth being lived out in this passage. The actions of the demon-possessed man were destructive, and Christ came to redeem this man with an abundant life found only in Him.

2. Things Christ redeems us for

- a. ***A great longing to be with Christ*** (v. 18). Jesus not only redeems us from things, but He also redeems us for specific reasons. The first lesson we can learn from this text is that Jesus’s redemption produces a longing for Him. At the start of this story, the demon-possessed man knelt before Jesus and begged Jesus not to torment him. At the end of the story, the man, now in his right mind, “begged him earnestly that he might remain with him.”

When we are redeemed like this man was, we know both where we have come from and the One who has led us to our new reality. We also know the vast divide between these two truths. Instead of being ashamed of our past and cowering in fear from Jesus, we acknowledge our past while running to the One who has redeemed us from it. This was true of the demon-possessed man, and it is also true of those who have personally experienced the redemption that is found in Christ alone.

- b. ***A calling to proclaim Christ*** (vv. 19-20). Many have felt inadequate in sharing the gospel either because they know their past or they do not believe they have enough knowledge to share the gospel. Neither excuse is valid, and this story testifies to this. First, this man went from being a hermit in the tombs who constantly hurt himself to a man proclaiming Christ. He had a personal encounter with Jesus that changed him, and he was called to tell others his redemption story.

Second, we do not find him going to get an advanced degree in theology, and there is certainly nothing wrong with this. He did have a story of redemption to tell, and he was commissioned by the Lord Jesus to go home to his own people and report to them how much the Lord had done for him and how Jesus had mercy on him. Our redemption story is just that—it is ours. It is as simple as saying, “I was lost, alone, and without Jesus. Then Jesus met me at my point of need, and He changed me from the inside out. He redeemed me from myself and for His purposes.”

Conclusion

We have learned from today's sermon that Jesus redeems those of us in need. The truth is that we are all in need—we need a Savior. The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (Rom. 3:23). The Bible goes on to say the wages of sin is death (6:23). A wage is something we earn. Since all have sinned, we have all earned the penalty of death. The Bible, however, also says that while we were sinners Christ died for us (5:8). This is Jesus's act of redemption for us. Finally, we learn that if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved (10:9). Let us not leave today without having our own redemption story.

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