

## **Response to Christ's Riches-Mark 5:14-20**

INT, TSK, GreekLexicon, Handfuls, Gill, Geneva, JFB, Robertson, Calvin, Family, Henry, Poole, NASXREF, Vincent, Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: You saw the transforming power of Jesus in how he changed an insane man from **howling 狂吼 in pain** from the legion of evil spirits in him to being in **his right mind and having a relationship with God**. **Jesus' love for the spiritual captive – this one man- was so great** that he took on this dangerous journey in rough seas to save him.

Today we will see how the man gladly **received the riches of Christ** and the results, but how the people of Gadara **rejected the riches of Christ** and the consequences. Keep in mind that the other lesson here is that Jesus was training his disciples to preach to the world...and this was their first excursion to semi-Jewish territory. So the lessons here were important to the disciples as well...knowing how different people would respond to the Gospel.

Our headings are:

**Rejecting Christ's Riches**

**Receiving Christ's Riches**

Our goals are: That you will **see the blessings of running to Jesus, the curses of running from Jesus, and how to use the blessings you receive from Christ for the glory of Christ and the good of others.**

### **Rejecting his Riches**

14 So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in **the city and in the country**. And they went out to see what it was that had happened.

**1. Upon their request, Jesus gave the demons permission to enter in to pigs** Why did Jesus let them go into the pigs? He could have sent them to hell.

**a. Jesus wanted to show the hearts of the people of the land**. They had wandered away from God 茫然离开 and were now minding pigs. These apostate Jews needed to learn about uncleanness. The pigs had to be removed.

**b. Jesus was showing the people that he had all powers**...and even evil spirits bowed to him. This should have made the people repent and run to the Savior.

**2. But those that lost their pigs were angry, ran from Jesus, and went and complained to the other people of their country**. These complainers were the **first witnesses of the power and grace of God in healing the poor man trapped in slavery**. But they still ran to complain. They went everywhere...in the city and in the country...condemning what Christ did.

**3. Others who heard the news went out to the mountains to see if the report of the complainers were true**. Matthew says that **the whole city came out** to see this thing...and they responded together.

15 Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion (of demons), **sitting and clothed and in his right mind**. And they were afraid.

**4. There were some very noticeable things about this man that the people would have seen: Jesus was talking with (and most likely) teaching the man.**

**a. The insane man was sitting sane - instead of crazily running around**...He could breathe freely now...his blood pressure was normal now... He had received the grace of God. He was made aware of his sins. He had a sense of justification 称义, pardon, reconciliation 和好 with God, adoption by God, and a hope of glory (heaven).

**b. The man was talking instead of his regular screaming**. He was tamed ...and a great calmness was around him. Not only was he talking to the Lord, he was also listening to the Lord.

**Colossians 1:13** - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

The man was making sense in his speech, as opposed to his insanity and ravings 胡言乱语...like

**Nebuchadnezzar...after his living like an animal, or like the Prodigal Son 浪子 who came to his senses.**

**c. The man was clothed...as opposed to his regular nakedness**. (According to Luke, he ran around naked.) Just like Nebuchadnezzar and the Prodigal son. Both were restored and covered with a robe.

**Luke 15:22** "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.'

**5. These men from Gadara became afraid. Why? They were afraid because of Christ's power, knowing he was from God.** They realized that Jesus was holy...and they saw their sin. They realized that Jesus was the majestic Sovereign...and they saw their guilt. But they had the wrong response. **Because they were afraid, they wanted Jesus out of there.** They rejected him.

16 And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. 17 Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

**6. And instead of focusing on what was important, they kept talking about their hogs – their financial loss- and not the healing.** They did not even think about how wrong they were to break God's law by raising hogs; rather, they focused on their loss.

**7. So the men Gadara asked Jesus to leave.** They saw their iniquities 罪孽 but they made a conscious choice to preserve their investments. They preferred sows to salvation. Yet, only if Jesus were in their country he would have given them spiritual riches.

**a. The insane man who ran to Jesus for help recognized his poverty and was brought into a rich estate.** He knew he needed help...and he was blessed. He had nothing financially...but he was a rich man. He was rich because he was saved by grace...he accepted the forgiveness of Jesus Christ and was restored to peace with God.

**b. The sane ones with their homes, and animals, and clothes were the poor ones...** They were not poor because they lost their pigs, but because they rejected the greatest gift of all – salvation in Jesus Christ.

**8. Jesus never went to Gadara again.** "Gadara" reminded the people of their punishing reward in hell for rejecting Christ. The name "Gadara" means "reward at the end."

#### **9. Lessons:**

**a. Examine your hearts regularly to see if there are things you love more than salvation,** keeping in mind that some things that you might love may be intangible 无形 things like influence, recognition, applause, and position.

**b. Be ready to give up everything you have for the riches of Jesus Christ.** Everything you have in this life will be lost, stolen, used up, or forgotten. Only who you are in Christ, and what you have done for Christ will be remembered.

**c. Rejoice when God saves someone.** Rejoice when someone comes to a better understanding of the Gospel. In both cases, **Christ will receive more glory!** That is your purpose in life – to glorify God.

**d. Remember that you are covered with Christ's righteousness - Just like the ark was covered** with pitch to keep Noah and his family safe...**Just like Adam and Eve were covered** with the animal skins so they felt no shame...**Just like the bride is covered** with embroidered 刺绣 clothing.

Psalms 45:13 The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her **clothing is woven with gold.** 14 She shall be **brought to the King in robes of many colors;** The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to You.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has **clothed me with the garments of salvation,** He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

### **Receiving Christ's Riches**

18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been **demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.**

**1. After freeing the spiritual captive and then being asked to leave by the people of the Gadarenes, Jesus then got into the fishing boat and headed out for his next preaching station.** He never stopped his ministry of teaching the Gospel. For this reason he came. And he needed to continue to train his apostles for preaching.

**2. The man who experienced spiritual healing thought it best to travel with the Lord and to serve him.** This was only natural. He knew everything he needed was in Christ: peace, joy, hope, and eternal life. And he wanted to serve the Lord. This was natural. This was rational.

Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

19 However, **Jesus did not permit him,** but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and **tell them what great things the Lord has done for you,** and how He has had compassion on you."

**3. But Jesus did not allow him to follow him. Why? Because Jesus wanted the man to be an evangelist 布道者...to the people of Gadara** – a tough bunch. And this was not a work with glamor or even great reward. But it was necessary work. Interesting too is that Jesus tells the man to go to those who were closest to him. **That is where one's greatest love is, but often a tougher place to teach.** The man might have wanted to leave Gadara – as they knew how bad he was before, but that was where the Lord sent him. That was where he stayed.

**4. The Lord even told him what to say: Speak of God's work for you...and not simply of his healing of the body...but of his healing of the soul.** Speak of the compassion of God. Speak of God's desires to save! Isn't the Lord amazing? He was no doubt angry with the Gadarenes for rejecting him, but he provided another missionary to them.

20 And he departed and **began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him;** and all marveled.

**5. Being excited by a new Spirit, the freed man naturally went out to announce eternal hope in Christ for his people.**

Psalm 51:12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. **13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,** And sinners shall be converted to You.

**6. Many were blessed by the work of this man.** He had great wealth, he passed it on. He was not a hoarder of wealth.

### **7. Lessons:**

**a. If people don't want to hear the message of Christ, don't force them. They may need some time. Don't take insults 侮辱 personally. Pray that someone else might go to them.**

**b. You do not have to have Christ personally present with you to enjoy his blessings.** His Holy Spirit lives in you...to assure...keep...and comfort you. He gives you his holy sacraments to remember he is with you now...and will be with you more fully in the future.

**c. The Christian life may not be a glamorous 光鲜亮丽 life.** It is quiet living for Christ and testifying to his goodness - a goodness that frees men from his condemning justice. You don't have to preach...but you can simply tell others of the change God made in your life. Invite them to church. Give them a Bible.

**d. Start bringing the Gospel with your family and friends, those closest to you.** It might be more difficult, but that's where you must start. **It is sad if you don't tell those who are closest to you of the hope you have in Christ.** That is the only hope they have. Don't hide it.

**e. This man was able to run for Christ, because he already ran to Christ.** Christ equips you do the work of an evangelist by your word and your works. So know Christ and spread his Word.

### **Conclusion**

The difference between the man and the people of Gadara is most remarkable. Both met with Christ but had completely different responses. **The people saw the remarkable thing he did, but were angry at the loss of their pigs and their profit.** Because of their craving 欲望 for cash they robbed themselves of true spiritual riches. They told the Lord to leave. **The formerly poor, naked, sadistic 施虐, masochistic 自虐, crazy, demon possessed man, when he met Jesus, realized his true poverty...poverty of his soul...and begged for help. Jesus blessed him with eternal riches.** Being rich, he chose to share his eternal wealth with all those around him.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Which of these people are you?** Have you been blessed with the riches of salvation and have the realization of your regeneration, your adoption, and your eternal security in Jesus Christ?

**2. If you are the regenerated重生 adopted one, share that message.** There is always more wealth in Christ storage that you can draw from and share with others. His blood is sufficient for the whole world.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, while you might not be fighting for pigs, you might be lusting垂涎 for wealth, education, influence, and good looks. Know that these things are fleeting...and will pass away quickly...and you will be poor again. If you chase Jesus out of your country you will only have yourself to blame for losing your riches. As a servant of God, I have warned you today. You are living in a dangerous land when you living without Christ. Make yourself right with God.