

September 9, 2012

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

Of Princeton, New Jersey

Jesus Christ

For by Him were all things created,
that are in heaven, and that are in earth,
visible and invisible ...

And He is before all things,
and by Him all things consist.
- Colossians 1:16-17

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class
11:00 AM Morning Service
Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week Service

WEB ADDRESS

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:
www.FreeGraceMedia.com

WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

Rocky Hill Firehouse, 2nd floor
150 Washington Street
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

MAILING ADDRESS

7 Birch Street
Pennington, NJ 08534

Phone: 615-513-4464 | Email: clay@freegracemedia.com

If you would like to receive this bulletin sent weekly to your email then send a note to the email address above.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10:15 am. Bible Class

Short Break

11:00 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymns

SEPTEMBER B'DAYS: Kathy A—3rd; Kenny C—14th; Christine K—25th; Sarah K—27th

THREE REQUESTS, THREE ANSWERS

Mark 5: 1-21

In this passage we find a request asked to the Lord by the unclean spirits. The Lord gave them their request. Secondly, the countrymen made a request. The Lord granted them their request. Thirdly, the man who Christ saved made a request but the Lord did not grant him his request. Let's see what we can learn by these requests and the Lord's answers.

The Request of Legion (vv10-12)

The devil and devils have much power. They had power over this man and are too powerful for you and me. They had power to destroy the swine. But they had to ask the Lord Jesus permission to do anything. That means Christ is God over all. Satan and the powers of darkness are under the total control of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the devil could not go into those swine without permission then he could not have entered this man without permission. Unclean spirits can go only where Christ Jesus permits, and can only do what Christ allows them to do. (v10, 12-13) (Job 1: 6-12; 1 Pet 5: 8) Satan is powerful but not omnipotent (Rev 20:1-3). Why does the Lord allow the devil to do anything? The Lord only allows satan to do what serves the

Lord's purpose in bringing glory to his name in the salvation of chosen sinners. They requested to go into the swine. Christ gave them permission so that in the destruction of the swine Christ might show his glory. Christ crushed the serpents head. He cast our sins into the depths of the sea. Christ binds the strongman and spoils his house, making his children clean, in our right mind, to sit at his feet and to be clothed with his righteousness. Christ is God working all things together on purpose for his own glory and the sake of those he has everlastingly loved.

The Request of the Countrymen (vv15-17)

These men begged the Lord to depart from their coasts for two reasons: they coveted the power of God and they coveted earthly riches. First, they were angry because after they had tried to cure the demonic to no avail, Christ did. Natural men despise the fact that none but Christ is able to put away the sin of his people and deliver lost souls from the power of satan. (Acts 10: 38; Heb 7: 25) Secondly, they asked Christ to leave because their two thousand head of pigs died. In both points, the "hope of their gains was gone." (Acts 16:19) The owners of these pigs were in as bad a shape as the man possessed with devils. By asking Christ to leave their coasts, these men were choked by the cares, riches and pleasures of life as surely as the swine were choked in the sea. (Mk 4: 19) There is no greater hindrance to a sinner from trusting Christ than covetousness for Christ's glory and for gain of this world. (1 Jn 2: 15-17) Take heed: they requested Christ to turn away from them; Christ gave them their request. (2 Tim 3: 5)

The Request of the Saved Man (v18)

The demons prayed let us *stay in this country but depart from you*—the Lord gave them their request. The countrymen prayed *for Christ to depart from us*—the Lord gave them their request. This man prayed, "*that he might be with him.*" But Christ denied him his request. Instead, the Lord sent him to tell his

friends what Christ had done for him. What a gift God gave to this man and this man's friends! Those the Lord sends do not necessarily fill the office of a pastor, maybe not even a deacon, maybe no office at all—this man did not—but he was sent of the Lord. Where ever we are the believer is sent of God to bear witness of him. How do we bear witness of Christ? "*Tell them how great things the LORD hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*"

What Have We Learned?

From the first two requests and answers we learn that the Lord will give us what we want. There will be some whom the Lord will give what they want whose will it is to walk in their glory and by their own will shall end up choked by their own lusts. This is not God's fault. It is what perishing sinners want. Then there will be others who the Lord will give what they want who will trust in Christ and part with all else to have the Pearl of great price because they have been made willing in the day of God's Power. This is all to the praise of the glory of his grace!

From the last request and answer, we learn that though we desire to be with Christ, until the Master calls us home, Christ will have us to bear witness of him in this world. The fact is, the Lord was with his witness all along, and Christ promises while we are in this world that he will never leave us nor forsake us. He will come again. We shall be with him in glory.

Father, make us willing to want only Christ. Lord Jesus, make us faithful witnesses of you! As one writer of old put it:

All for the Master, all without reserve,
All to the utmost of our manhood's might;
Each pulse, each throb of heart and thrill of nerve,
Each hour of busy day and silent night,
All for the Master!