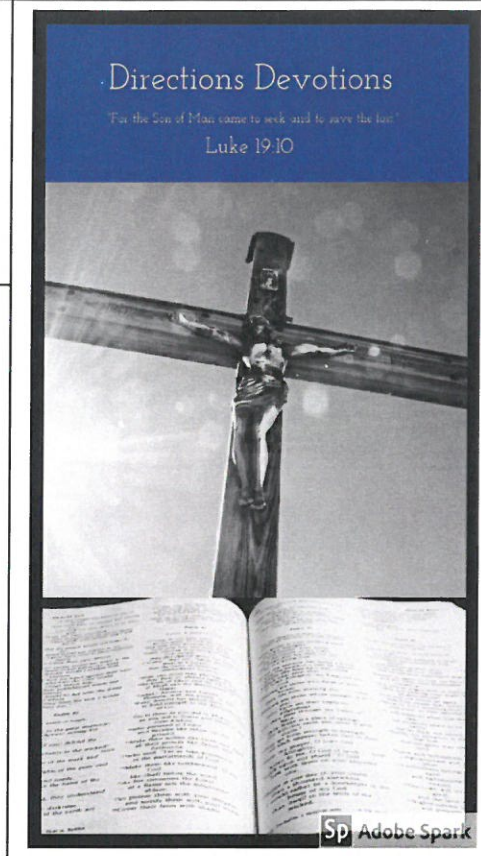


Fall Semester 2017 – Devotion #4 – Mark 5:18-20

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.



Dear Friends & Family of St. John's and True North,

What a different encounter from last week. When Jesus got out of the boat this man was demon-possessed, naked, and full of wounds. As Jesus gets back into the boat this man dressed and in his right mind was begging to go with Jesus. Does Jesus' answer shock you? Here you have someone wanting desperately to stay with the Lord and Jesus says no. Why would that be? Again, this wonderful account in Mark 5 is fascinating.

After casting the demons out of this man, those demons destroyed a massive herd of pigs (like 2,000). The people in the area reacted. They knew of the demon-possessed man. They knew of the pigs. One would think that they would rejoice over the fact that this guy who was tough to approach was now healed that they would welcome Jesus. But it was the exact opposite. They had a plea for him. It was that he leaves their region. Jesus listens to their request. As he's leaving the man he helped wants to go with him. Why would Jesus say no?

It's because he seeks the lost. Pigs were of greater value than having the Son of God in their presence. While Jesus could have easily left them to their own devices, he leaves his missionary behind. It was the one he recently helped. This man was given the task of proclaiming Jesus to that region of the Decapolis. And what happened. People listened.

Our Savior sends us out too. He's not done seeking the lost. Who does he send to get the lost? You and me. The lost are on campus. The lost are in our own families. It's the individual who would hold the created things as more important than the Creator by emphasizing Science and degrading God. It's the son or daughter who knows where our congregation and knows when mom and/or dad worship here yet have nothing more to do with the church where they were baptized, taught as Sunday School children, and confirmed. If you're looking for a method of how to tell them, follow the pattern here. Tell them how Jesus has done wonderful things for you and how he's done them for them also.

That nameless Gerasene man is quite fascinating. He goes from this demon possessed living among the tombs to spokesman for his Savior. May the Lord bless our work of tell what Christ has done to seek and save us.

The Lord's blessings on your week!

Pastor Lindner