

The Gadara Project

Mark 5:1-20

I. Start Where You Are

A. The enthusiasm of new life in Christ generates bold dreams. And when he was come into the ship, **he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.** (MARK 5:18)

B. Jesus called for something less dramatic and more immediate. Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, **Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee,** and hath had compassion on thee. (MARK 5:19)

C. Jesus' plan worked. And **he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis** how great things Jesus had done for him: and **all men did marvel.** (MARK 5:20)

II. Start With the Prospects God Assigns

A. Finding the right answer is more important than taking charge of how to find the answer. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: **I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.** (1 CORINTHIANS 9:22)

B. People who must control the gospel rather than submit to it will lose it. And **this I do for the gospel's sake,** that I might be partaker thereof with you. (1 CORINTHIANS 9:23)

C. In the case of the gospel, winning is more important than playing the game. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.** (1 CORINTHIANS 9:24)

D. Success in any field takes effort and intentional application. And **every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things.** Now **they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.** (1 CORINTHIANS 9:25)

E. Do not lose your own soul in the effort to help other sinners secure their souls. **I therefore so run,** not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring *it* into subjection: **lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.** (1 CORINTHIANS 9:26-27)

A. Paul was thankful for the privilege of sharing the gospel. And *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord*, who hath enabled me, *for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry*; (1 TIMOTHY 1:12)

1. A believer's inadequacy simply gives more glory to Christ. And he said unto me, *My grace is sufficient for thee*: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly *therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me*. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for *when I am weak, then am I strong*. (2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10)

2. God will supply what His call demands. *I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*. (PHILIPPIANS 4:13)

B. Part of what directed Paul was an awareness of how far God had brought him. Who was before *a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious*: but *I obtained mercy*, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. (1 TIMOTHY 1:13)

C. God passes out grace in heaping quantities. And *the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant* with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. (1 TIMOTHY 1:14)

D. The Church engages in Christ's work – REDEMPTION OF THE LOST. This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners*; of whom I am chief. (1 TIMOTHY 1:15)

E. Christ's purpose outweighs all others in a believer's life. Howbeit for this cause *I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him* to life everlasting. (1 TIMOTHY 1:16)

F. God's glory grows as He bring life out of death and holiness out of sin. *For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity*; for it *is* great. (PSALM 25:11)

G. No problem is too great for God. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: *though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool*. (ISAIAH 1:18)

H. Always remember that God is the workman and believers never more than tools of grace. I, even I, *am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake*, and will not remember thy sins. (ISAIAH 43:25)