Daily Devotion #180

**A Right Mind**

**Mark 5: 15 (NASB)** *“They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the ‘legion’.”*

Over the years, our family has put our daily trash in a container outside near one of our sheds. It sits there filling up throughout the week, waiting for Thursday mornings for the trash collector to come get it. Normally, life is fine with the container sitting in its spot until its time for its weekly emptying, but there have been a few times over the years when our local bear decided he wanted to puruse the sight to see what goodies he could find. When he shows up (I’m not sure of its gender actually.) he usually leaves a mass of destruction with a turned-over container and the discarded items that have been put in the container. Hopefully, the bear is happy with its find, but for me, it’s not a pleasant morning.

As I looked at the carnage that was dragged around this time, I became aware of how that picture is much like the inner workings of a mind that is not filled with the Spirit of God. In that mind, thoughts and emotions are scattered with no semblance of harmony. And when the thoughts and emotions are a mess, so are the actions from that person. Each mind of a child of Satan is scattered in the sense that they cannot and do not wish to follow the One who can help them most. Sadly, the unsaved world lives their lives in darkness, spiritual darkness, but it doesn’t understand or know how confused that can be and how unholy its actions can be as a result.

Such was the case of the man who Jesus cast out the demons. We are told in this account in Mark’s Gospel that this man, **Mark 5:5 (NASB)** *“Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones*.” Such a tragic and emotionally devastating scene. How sad that this man had succomed to the darkness of Satan, probably without even knowing he was doing so, and lived a life of isolation and loneliness. No doubt, fear was a huge part of his life. Hatred ruled him as well as pride and indignation at those who sought to challenge his way of life.

But Jesus is the One who has control over the demonic forces of this world - those demons who take over every heart that does not belong to Him. In fact, every unsaved soul is possessed demonically at some point, being controlled and manipulated by the demons of darkness. And it stands to reason that every unsaved soul is demon possessed at times because the Holy Spirit does not live in them to give them new life. When the Holy Spirit is present, there is no room for demons, therefore, the mind and heart of the person are free to be who God made them to be.

To have a mind that is controlled by the power of God is one of the greatest blessings of this life. Eternity with God is the only greater blessing. But in this life, to have a mind that is moved by or directed by the Spirit of God is to have freedom from darkness and the manipulating power of Satan. If you notice, there was quite a difference in this man from the time before Christ cast out the demons to the time just after. He went from total chaos of the soul to having a right mind.

Beautiful isn’t it? It’s beautiful that our Lord opens our minds to see the light of His truth. To know in our hearts that He is God and there is none other. And to give us peace and joy and love and kindness. And above all, a healthy or right mind. Whatever you want to call it, God is the One who gives you and me the ability to think rationally, to speak honorably, and to know the truth of God.

Beloved, would you thank God for your right mind He has given you? Thank Him for removing the chaos that rules the unsaved mind. Thank Him for the ability to be rational and aware that there is no better mind than a mind controlled by God.