

"Going" (RLC, pgs.204-245)

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

Q: When Jesus said these words, what was the "setting"/context? Why is that important?

Q: What do YOU want your parting words to be?

Q: Why do you think Jesus made these words His parting words to us?

Table Time...

READ: Luke 8:26-33 "26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." 29 For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) 30 Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. 32 Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and drowned."

Q: According to verse 28, what's the reaction of the man with demons to the presence of Jesus?

Q: What does this tell us about the demons?

Q: According to this passage, what are some of the characteristics of demonic oppression/possession?

Q: How have we seen these "signs" in our day?

Q: Twice in this passage (vs.28 & 31) the demons "beg" Jesus. What does this tell us about Jesus? Why is THAT important?

READ: Luke 8:34-37 "When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. 36 And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned."

Q: What is the reaction of the herdsmen and the people?

Q: Why do they ask Jesus to "depart" after such an amazing miracle?

Q: Have you ever seen this reaction when people see Jesus do an amazing miracle in someone's life?

READ: Luke 8:38-39 "The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him."

Q: According to verse 38, the man "begs" Jesus for something. What is it and why do you think he does this?

Q: Have YOU ever been delivered from evil and feel like this?

Q: According to verse 39, what is Jesus' response to this man's begging?

Q: What is this man's reaction to Jesus' commission/command?

Q: How can WE be more like this man?

Big Group Debrief...

Q: What's one thing you took away from the passages above?

Q: What has God "done for you"?

Q: How can you share with someone what God has done for you?