



SET FREE ... NOW GO!

March 6/7, 2021

Matthew 5:1 – 20

Pastor Daniel Hahn

MESSAGE NOTES

The story reveals some profound truths:

1. Satan's power is real; don't underestimate it.

The Devil...holds us as his slaves, till the Son of God delivers us from his tyranny. Naked, torn, and disfigured, we wander about, till He restores us to soundness of mind. — John Calvin

2. Jesus brings light to the darkest places; don't write anyone off.

We so often fail to come close to God because we cannot possibly believe that God would be kind enough to care about us, to provide us with answers, to give us hope, and to gently renew us. We need eyes to see and seeing eyes are eyes of faith. Eyes that look beyond the problem. Eyes that look beyond our own unworthiness. Eyes that look with confidence to God of all grace and mercy. — Henry Nouwen

3. God works through people to reach people; don't miss your opportunity.

To put it simply, the grace of God is always going somewhere — moving forward, extending His kingdom, propelling His people toward love and service to others. As we learn to live in light of the gospel, mission should be the natural overflow. God's grace brings renewal internally (in us) so that it might bring renewal externally (through us). What Jesus did was to found a missionary movement that would one day span the globe. If you're a follower of Jesus, you don't have to start a missionary movement. You're already in one.

— Bob Thune and Will Walker, *The Gospel-Centered Life*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was something you recall from last week's sermon? Maybe going back over the notes will trigger something significant.
- When it comes to the spiritual realm of evil forces, demons or Satan, what are some common responses people might have?
- Why was it so shocking Jesus went to this region across the lake?
- What was the demon-possessed man's life like in this encounter?
- How did the demon-possessed man respond to Jesus? (5:6 – 7) Why were the demons so terrified of Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus sent the demons into a herd of pigs (who then jumped off a cliff and died)? How did the people respond? Do you see any parallels with people in our own culture who would rather protect their own assets or the status quo rather than even consider what God offers them?
- In our own culture, what are some ways the forces of evil (Satan and his demons) bind up and control people?
- The freed man wants to leave with Jesus, but what does Jesus tell him to do instead? Why?
- By the time Jesus returns to this area later on, the people come running to him for healing rather than rejecting him as they did in this story. Why the change?
- In your own life, do you see any ways that Satan had a lot of influence over you and your decisions before you met Christ?
- This week, consider taking some time to thank God for the many ways He has set you free from the realm of spiritual darkness and death.