

Luke 8:26-39

"For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. (v.29)

In today's text, Jesus crossed Lake Galilee. There must be a reason why Jesus went across from Galilee by boat. It is an area called Decapolis. There were 10 cities in Decapolis, including Gerasene, Gadara, Philadelphia, and Damascus. These were mainly Greek cities, mixed with Hellenism and Greek-Roman culture. And he met the man who was possessed by demons there.

Compared to the miracles he performed in Galilee, the ministry here he did in Decapolis, shows us a very different image of the Lord. In Galilee, he was the friend of the poor. In particular, in chapter 7 of the Gospel of Luke, you will find the Lord had mercy and compassion and healed the sick. But here, Jesus confronts strongly the evil power and binds them instantly. Indeed, the Lord has come to this man who was in the most miserable situation, suffered by evil force alone.

He was an urban man. He lived in a city. A city is a place where people are more crowded than traditional farming or countryside, and where various traditions and cultures are mixed. He might not belong to a warm community, instead, the man must survive alone, just as an individual must survive in a city. It can be a lonely, competitive, and fierce place, not a family, relatives, or hometown community. It may not be different from the urban life we live here. He was alone and endured the madness of the city.

Through this man who bears all the oppressions and the evil power throughout his body, this passage reminds us of such dark realities of the world. Through the madness of the Gerasene, we realise there exists clearly the power of evil, the power of darkness, and the power that can cause human suffering and oppression. Jesus, our Christ is the only one who can set free us from all the sinfulness and darkness and the wounds of our relationships and minds. The Lord saves us and heals us from the pain and wounds. If you suffer from something that you did not want, let us remember the LORD went to the man crossing the storming sea and calming down the wild wind. At last, the Lord saved the man there. The Lord healed him.

Prayer

May God feed you and protect you; May God guide you and ease your way. Glory be given to our Protector because God will never forget us; we are inscribed in the palm of God's hands! Praise the Lord, Amen.

By Rev. Sunny Lee