

A Friend of the Addicted

Luke 8:26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. 27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" 29 For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places. 30 Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion," he replied, because many demons had gone into him. 31 And they begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss. 32 A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into them, and he gave them permission. 33 When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, 35 and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. 37 Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

The Background to the Story and the Places

The Preceding Story (Sea of Galilee)

The Town and People Involved

What is Addiction?

Any thinking or behavior that is _____, repetitious – and difficult or impossible to _____. – Gary Collins

Addictions begin so _____!

There are several types of addiction!

_____ desires gone _____ --

Substances/Chemicals –

_____ that is habitual –

_____ Patterns --

From the story I learn that People who are addicted . . .

-- Are _____ for _____ –27

-- Are _____ by the addiction in all areas of life.-- 27

-- Will do _____ to get a "_____" – 29

-- Usually want to be _____ – 29

The Miracle

Jesus set the man free from His _____ and gave him a _____ Master.

Look at the change in this man!

He was irrational – now he is in his _____

He was _____ – now he is _____.

He was _____ from people – now he is sitting with Jesus.

He was _____ in his heart – now he was _____.

If you want to be freed from an addiction . . .

1. Determine that you really _____ to be freed from that which wrongly _____ you.

Matt. 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

2. Allow Jesus Christ to take _____ of _____ situation.

Luke 8: 29 For Jesus had commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and . . .

By _____ your problem.

By _____ your addiction with _____!

Luke 8:38 The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away,

Eph. 5:18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

By making your problem a matter of _____ and _____.

3. Be accountable to another _____.

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

4. Be a _____ to _____!

Luke 8:39 "Return home and tell how much God has done for you." So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.