

Finishing Well

Lesson #25 Enemies That War in My Soul: Gergashites July 14, 2021

When God commanded Joshua and Israel to claim their Promised Land, the Canaanites weren't about to simply surrender and leave. Israel had to forcefully depose the Canaanites.

Gen. 15:13-14, 16 Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land *that is not theirs*, and will serve them, and they will afflict them 400 years. And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. But in the 4th generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." [The return of Israel to the promised land from Egypt would correspond with the "completion" of the iniquity of the Amorites.]

The wickedness of the Amorites increased from generation to generation.

Can you imagine the presence and power of Satan imbedded and contagiously spreading through the doorway nations of Canaan? Can you imagine darkness so expansive through a culture that the people who carry God's plan of redemption were at risk of being overwhelmed and destroyed? These Canaanite nations were offering up their live babies as burnt offerings to the demonic false gods they worshipped. After 400 years, the evil was complete; the dominance of darkness deep-rooted, wide-spread, and in control. God's judgment was also full and complete. God gave the Canaanites 400 years to repent as Israel was held bondage in Egypt and then an extra forty years to repent when Israel wandered through the wilderness.

The Canaanites had ample opportunity to recognize that Israel was God's chosen people, but they ignored what they knew to be true.

Deuteronomy 7:1-6 "When the Lord your God shall bring you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations—seven nations larger and stronger than you—and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, you **MUST DESTROY THEM TOTALLY**. Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy.

➤ 5 D's of Divine Instruction: Drive Out, Destroy, Demolish, Dispossess, Dwell

The Holy Spirit of God commands us under His influence and His authority to **DRIVE OUT** the enemies in our land! They are not compatible with Godly holy living!

- These enemies will work through our flesh and our soul [mind, will, emotions].
- Each one is like a parasite: Attach itself to you and destroy your life
- The **FLESH** will be empowered because it desires to be exalted and its desires and goals fulfilled.
- These enemies are active elements of your spiritual warfare.
- Their goal: Prevent your spiritual growth and maturity;
Hinder your experience of the Abundant Life
- Their defeat is **ONLY** possible as you surrender to the Holy Spirit and avail yourself of His power to overcome them.

If these enemies remain, they will be "snares, traps, scourges and thorns" to the people of God!

The area where the Girgashites lived is known in the N.T. as Gadara.

- The region of the Decapolis, Gentile territory, pagan territory
- Pompey conquered Palestine in 63 BC, he isolated this region and started building new cities to be showcases for the superiority of pagan Hellenistic culture and gods.

Context: Arising from His sleep, Jesus calmed the storm with His Word.

There were no incantations, sacrifices or prayers, for nature is subject to Jesus, just as it was at creation. Yet, this is no ordinary storm. Jesus "rebuked" the wind.

- The word used by Mark is for confronting demonic forces.
- Jesus speaks with a 2nd person singular imperative: "you—be still!" Demonic Origin

Consider: Jesus is moving from Israel into pagan territory, and the demonic forces that control these areas are seeking to prevent his arrival. He had delivered victims of demonic control in Israel, and the concern is that he might do the same in the Decapolis.

In Mark 5:1-5, Jesus, who has just calmed a violent storm at sea, now meets a man with an equally violent storm within him. The description of the demoniac is one of the most pitiful and wretched of anyone in Scripture. The description is raw and brutal, a picture of despair.

The Storm In The Man

Matt. 8 and Mark 5 are 2 NT references to the territory dominated by Girgashite spirits.

Mark 5:1-9;11-13 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.

- Tame, subdue = word used for subduing a wild beast [James 3:7]

⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." ⁸ For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" ⁹ Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." ¹³ And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine [there were about 2,000]; and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea and drowned in the sea.

Satan is a THIEF whose ultimate purpose is to DESTROY. John 10:10a

Consider: What happens to people who LET their hearts be dominated by this evil spirit?

- Spirit robbed him of his sanity and self-control; lived like an animal
- Spirit filled him with fear; cutting himself, screaming
- His body is battered, adorned with scars, scabs, bruises, open wounds, dirt and dried blood. He is filthy and unkempt, a terror to himself and to others.

- Spirit robbed him of his peace and purpose for living
- The spirit bound the victim to the tombs. Spirit of violence and death
 - ❖ Don't mind fighting, quarreling or becoming brutal and inflicting physical or emotional injuries on others to see that their selfish desires are achieved.

Girgashite spirit can easily lead to the death of whoever it possesses or it can use such a person to kill others.

- Spirit condemned this man to an eternity of judgment. [Before Jesus Came]]

Note: What did society do for him? Restrained him, isolated him, threatened him

- ❖ Society could not change him.

Note: The Demons: Have faith and tremble because of what they believe.

- Demons believe Jesus is the Son of God and He has authority over them.
- Demons believed Jesus had the power to send them into the swine.
- Demons believe in a future judgment and have knowledge of their impending doom

Matt. 8:29b art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

- Demons believe in prayer: They begged Jesus not to send them into the abyss, the place of torment

Note: Demons did not know what Jesus planned to do. Suggests: Satan can know God's plan ONLY if God reveals it

This event is full of ritual uncleanness. He lives in the Decapolis—among the tombs.

- He has an unclean spirit within him.
- In the region are swine herders—men engaged in an unclean occupation with unclean animals. Swine flesh was a prized food for Roman legionaries. If the swine were being raised to feed the occupying Roman powers, it would be doubly offensive.
- Jesus meets a man with an unclean spirit living among unclean tombs surrounded by unclean pagans employed in unclean occupations with unclean animals, all in unclean Gentile territory.
- It was Jesus' decision to leave the towns of Galilee to cross the Sea of Galilee, knowing he would meet this man, just as it was His decision to leave the glories of heaven for you and for me.
- There is no barrier of uncleanness, iniquity, physical or moral filth, that Jesus is not willing to move through to redeem a child of God [II Tim 1:9].
- The demoniac sensing that Jesus could help, ran to his feet
- Incredibly, the man who no man could tame immediately fell in surrender before Jesus.

Mark 5:14-17 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country.

And they went out to see what it was that was done.

¹⁵ And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

¹⁷ And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

The owners of the swine, the Gadarenes, lost their means of feeding themselves and their families. How would you react if the entrance of Jesus into your life meant the loss of your home, car, bank account, job, etc.? The Gadarenes reacted by asking Jesus to leave.

Phil. 3:7-8 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things LOSS for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ." Friendship with Jesus can be costly. Preachers who promise prosperity, good health and continual joy lead men astray. You might lose a herd of swine. You are meant to lose all.

What do you know about PIGS? Compare With Girgashite Spirit

1. They love to roll around in the mud. Girgashite literally means "Clay Dweller."
 - Clay symbolizes earthliness and slipperiness
2. Pigs are always looking towards the ground.
 - The Girgashite spirit = Earthly Focus on temporal things and exhibit a strong DISLIKE for things that are "spiritual" and eternal.
3. It is physically IMPOSSIBLE for pigs to look UP at the sky.
 - The Girgashite spirit leads you from focusing on heavenly, eternal things or things ABOVE. Your focus will be on what can be SEEN and VISIBLE.

Girgashite has 2 meanings:

1. Dweller in clay soil or black mud
 - Enjoys wallowing in muck and mire of the earth [flesh]
 - Clay or earthly people who focus on earthliness & unbelief in whatever can't be seen
 - Insatiable spirit that strives for the visible rather than the invisible
 - Spirit that thrives off the lusts of the flesh & supports the evil, perverted pleasures
 - Represent worldliness and lack of faith
 - Concentrates on material gain and wealth - covets the momentary, not eternal things
 - NO focus on things that can add value to your destiny
 - Eternal Life > Not in their life's agenda
 - You can be blindsided due to the PRIDE of your flesh

Girgashite Spirit Manifested In Man

- Spirit causes the victim to make impulsive decisions
 - Short-sighted vision of the temporal
 - Disregard the INVISIBLE things of the Spirit
 - Judge all things through VISIBLE parameters
 - Base decisions on NATURAL UNDERSTANDING
- Very difficult to dissuade from their decisions, especially when they are told the spiritual causes and effects and ramifications of their actions.
- They are unstable people who run from God.

3. Driven by the lust of the eye; what appears good; sensual; walk by sight, not by faith

- Possess an anti-faith spirit; are faithless people and a faith killer in others.
- Without faith it is impossible to please God > Girgashites cannot please God.

This is a huge spirit to overcome because faith toward God is the only weapon to overcome this spirit. Someone who is totally consumed by earthliness is largely guided by reasoning and logic. If it does not make sense in "their mind" then it is wrong.

Human reasoning, an enemy of faith, dismisses spiritual things we cannot grasp with our physical minds & senses. Much of what God does defies the mind of natural man.

Isa. 55:8 For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord.

Natural Mind vs. Spiritual Mind

The carnal mind god's is reason but the spiritual mind, is the mind of God in us.

I Cor. 2:12-16 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. [The non-Girgashite does not rely on human wisdom, preferring to depend on the voice of the Holy Spirit.]

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

I Cor. 3:1-3 When there is even a hint of carnality, spiritual lessons cannot be understood.

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

- The natural man walks by the dictates of his mind.
- Not willing to renew their minds to conform to the mind of Christ [Romans 12: 1-2]
Claim to be born-again but exhibit the traits of old the life
Stuck with tradition of men, which renders the Word of God of no effect (Mark 7: 13)

¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is *rightly* judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

- If you rely on the voice of the Spirit instead of relying on your natural mind, you will begin to act according to the mind of Christ, and you will be able to perceive things that others don't. You will perceive real dangers where others don't see them.

I Pet. 2:1-2 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Those who are spiritually minded have set aside all things that prevent spiritual growth.

Spiritual truth: Girgashite Spirit is the instrument of Satan to kill off new believers at birth, before they become established.

This evil giant is a predator who hovers over infant believers to devour them.

The spirits often work together in teams to ensnare the believer. The Hivite spirit and the Canaanite spirit work with the Girgashite spirit to pull a young believer back into the world - the lusts of the flesh and the pleasures of the world. Stronger believers must recognize this danger and stand guard on their behalf in order that a young believer can be established in his position in the plan of God. It is essential to get the babies well fed and protected at the same time (Discipleship is ESSENTIAL).

There is a real sense of urgency, as there is for many mothers in nature, who have to ensure that, if their offspring are to survive the harsh climate, their babies must grow quickly and be able to go out into the world on their own - safe from predators.

Exodus 17:1-4 Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

Question: You had to believe in God for your deliverance, so why not simply trust Him now? When they were delivered from Egypt, they saw the power of God and the 10 plagues, which targeted the 10 major gods of Egypt [including Pharaoh] to show these "gods" to be powerless to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

They saw the power and miracles but when it came to basic needs and mindsets, they were still held captive to the systems of Egypt.

- They reasoned: The only way to get food was to grow it, but they were in the wilderness.
- In Egypt there was plenty of water available, but they were now in the wilderness.

God purposefully put them in a place where the systems and ways of getting their needs met would not suffice and total dependence is on God for everything.

- This purposeful placing is meant to attack earthly mindsets.
- They focused on earthly things that are temporal and not the things that are eternal.

Since the TEMPORAL life is the FOCUS, they aren't willing to sacrifice anything.

Do not believe that you will reap in ETERNITY what you sow in this life on the earth.

Biblical Example: The world is my inheritance; focus on VISIBLE; GREEDY

Luke 12:15-21 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."

²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

²¹ "So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Luke 14:33 "Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."

Mark 8:34-37 And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

³⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it.

³⁶ For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

³⁷ Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

II Cor. 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Heb. 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Where is your vision cast? - downward toward earth or upward toward heaven?

Colossians 3:1-5 If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory.