



## *The Importance of the Gospel (Part 3)*

BY: Chris Harper, AD

The Gospel is important because it is the power of change. In a world where transformation comes cheap (via diets, surgery and the “best you, now”), it is the Gospel that brings about “true” transformation. We see the transforming power of the Gospel clearly in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of Mark

you and I are riddled with sin, slaves to darkness, naked in our depravity, talking foolishly and unable to understand the truth of God’s word (1 Cor. 1:18).

- 2) **Our response to Christ is similar.** Legion, seeing Christ in the distance ran to Him, threw himself at the

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verses 2-20. Many of you know this story, it is the story of the demon possessed man named Legion. I encourage you to read this story one or two times this week, and to consider the following thoughts:

- 1) **We are similar to Legion.** Legion, riddled with unclean spirits, was bound, naked and shouting obscenities in a graveyard (vs. 3-5). Apart from Christ,

feet of Christ and wanted nothing to do with Christ (vs. 6-10). How many times must we encounter Christ, yet turn away? We can’t help but throw ourselves at His mercies, and with one motion acknowledge His Kingship, yet reject His love.

- 3) **Jesus’ response is similar.** Jesus asked the demon possessed man His name. There is an unwritten,

## *Upcoming events*

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3/6 – MS Track Parents Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

3/7 – Boys Sectional vs. Lanesville, tip at 7:30 p.m.

3/8 – Boys Sectional Championship, tip at 7:30 p.m.

3/10 – Elementary Soccer Info. Meeting (grades 4-5 only), 6 p.m.

3/15 – MS Baseball vs. SC at CAI, Time TBD

3/15 – Special Olympics Basketball Regionals, 9 a.m.

3/18 – MS Baseball vs. West Washington, 5:30 p.m.

3/20 – MS Baseball at Clarksville, 5:30 p.m.

loving truth in God's word that says Satan knows your name, but calls you by your sin; that God knows your sin, but calls you by your name. Legion called Christ, and instantly the man was saved. It is much like the encounter Jesus had with Zacchaeus (Luke 19) in calling him down from a tree. When Christ moves upon a man, no man, no matter how hard or how long he tries can ultimately reject the power of the Spirit of God. The Bible tells us that Legion was soon "in his right mind, sitting fully clothed, on a log (vs. 15)." The only thing that can move us from a darkened mind (Rom 1:21-25) is the spirit of Christ. The only thing that can cloth our naked souls is the powerful righteousness of Christ (Isa 61:10; 2 Cor 5:21).

4) **Our response is similar to the response of the villagers.**

Upon seeing the change in Legion, they immediately began to beg Christ to leave (vs. 17). Why? I contend it is because the change they saw in Legion is the change they themselves needed, yet they were unwilling to accept it. Legion had been freed from his demons, the villagers cherished theirs. Like Legion, just a few verses prior, the village acknowledged Christ, "begging Him (vs. 17)," they knew His power, yet were unwilling to be transformed. Our story comes full circle.

5) **Legion's mission is similar to all who follow Christ.** Legion,

pleading to go with Jesus, is instructed to go "to your own people and proclaim what the Lord has done for you (vs. 19)." Soon after, Legion goes to the Decapolis (a 10 city region) to proclaim the goodness of Christ (vs. 20). This is, should be our response. Shame on those who keep the Good News for themselves, unwilling to share it with others. The power of Christ turned a first rate sinner (Legion) into a world class evangelist. What is He willing to do with you? How should you respond? Start with your family, and then go tell the world...

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