

Lessons from Fred Pastor Larry Booth

I. Intro:

The story of "Fred" -The demoniac at Gadarenes or Gergesenes or Gadara-

Definition of Gergesenes: Hitchcock's "those who come from pilgrimage or fight."¹

A false reading of "Gadarenes" retained in the King James Version of [Matthew 8:28](#).²

Gadara seems to be the right name for Mark and Luke's accounts:

"The capital of the Roman province of Peraea. It stood on the summit of a mountain about 6 miles south-east of the Sea of Galilee. ([Mark 5:1](#)) and ([Luke 8:26-39](#)) describe the miracle of the healing of the demoniac ([[Matthew 8:28-34](#)] says two demoniacs) as having been wrought "in the country of the Gadarenes," thus describing the scene generally. The miracle could not have been wrought at Gadara itself, for between the lake and this town there is the deep, almost impassable ravine of the Hieromax (Jarmuk). It is identified with the modern village of Um-Keis, which is surrounded by very extensive ruins, all bearing testimony to the splendour of ancient Gadara.

"The most interesting remains of Gadara are its tombs, which dot the cliffs for a considerable distance round the city, chiefly on the north-east declivity; but many beautifully sculptured sarcophagi are scattered over the surrounding heights. They are excavated in the limestone rock, and consist of chambers of various dimensions, some more than 20 feet square, with recesses in the sides for bodies...The present inhabitants of Um-Keis are all troglodytes, 'dwelling in tombs,' like the poor maniacs of old, and occasionally they are almost as dangerous to unprotected travellers."³

But Josephus (Life 42 [9]) says Gadara had territory and villages on the border of the lake, and probably this included the little village of Gerasa. Indeed coins of Gadara sometimes display a ship (cf. HJP 2:132–36). Gadara was thus the regional or toparchic capital (cf. Sherwin-White, p. 128, note 3).⁴

II. Text: Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:27-39, Matthew 8:28-34 (Two demoniacs in Gergesenes-a different city opposite of Capernaum-

III. Details- One is after the calling of His disciples and the other happens after the walking on water.

IV. 4 negative things

A. He was unclothed- Satan is always trying to uncover us

¹ Hitchcock, Roswell D. "Entry for 'Gergesenes'". "An Interpreting Dictionary of Scripture Proper Names". . New York, N.Y., 1869.

² Orr, James, M.A., D.D. General Editor. "Entry for 'GERGSENESES'". "International Standard Bible Encyclopedia". 1915.

³³ M.G. Easton M.A., D.D., Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Third Edition, published by Thomas Nelson, 1897

HJP Schurer: *A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Christ*

⁴ Carson, D. A. (1984). [Matthew](#). In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke* (Vol. 8, p. 219). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

- B. **He was Isolated-** Characteristic of someone who is hurt- **Eccl. 9:4-12, Hebrews 10:24-25**
- C. **He was crying- out loud often-** Deep emotional trauma, distress. Deep inner turmoil is often too hurtful to open up and share, doomed- **Prov. 17:22**
- D. **Self- destructive-** **Prov. 18:12**-Has always indicated the devil's influence.

Manifest in mutilation, but generally more subtle: Negative thoughts and words, Low self worth and poor image: create false images of one's self like less intelligent, less attractive, less fortunate, less accepted. Destructive lifestyles come from this isolationism, lack of motivation, lack of advancement, fear of failure, criticalness, judgmentalism.

John 10:10- Has the thief stolen anything from you?

V. Positive results of meeting Jesus

- A. **Sitting-** Showed he was emotionally healed-**Phil. 4:6-7**
- B. **He was clothed-** **Gal 3:26-27**-He had come to a place of self-respect and acceptance of himself within community- **Eph. 1:6**
- C. **Right mind-**No longer tormented

VI. City was in turmoil- What next? The deliverance that sets us free from our bondages should never stop with us.

Luke 8:38-40 (KJV)

³⁸ Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying,

³⁹ Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

⁴⁰ And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people *gladly* received him: for they were all waiting for him.

Mark 5:19-21 (KJV)

¹⁹ Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

²⁰ And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all *men* did marvel.

²¹ And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

The original ideal for this message came from Dr. Delron Shirley in his daily devotional 4 part on Lessons on "Legion."