**One Word – ‘GO’**

Matthew 8:28-34, May 25, 2025

**Introduction**

The title to this sermon is: One Word – ‘GO’, you might think 1 word sermon!!! It would be short

I hate to disappoint you, but that title has nothing to do with length

The title comes from the one word JS speaks in Matthew 8:28-34 – GO

So far in Matthew we have seen a number of passages show power of JS words

Mt 4:10 Jesus said to Satan after temptation – ‘away with you Satan’, he left

Mt4:19 Jesus to fishermen – ‘follow Me and…’, they immediately left all v20

Mt5—7 Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, people astonished for He taught 7:28

Mt8:3 Jesus to the leper – I am willing be cleansed, immediately cleansed

Mt8:8 Centurion only speak a word – go your way and as you have believed 8:13

Mt 8:26 Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea – great calm

Today we look at Mt8:28-34 healing of two demon-possessed men. JS says 1 word – GO

**Parallel Accounts**

Mk 5:1-20 = 452 words in NKJV Lk 8:26-39 = 404 words in NKJV Mt8:28-34 = 193 words in NKJV [Mt. generally more concise than other synoptics but here he includes a detail not in other two]

**Two Textual Issues**

1. Number of men

Matthew specifically says there were ‘*two* demon- possessed men’ 8:28

Mark and Luke say ‘a man’, Mark and Luke are focusing on one, the more vocal

of the two, or more wild of the two. Matthew leaves out 1mans respons poss bcs Gentile

2. Location of encounter

NKJV [TR] NASB and other modern translations [NU]

Mt8:28 Gerge[a]sa Gadara

Mk5:1 Gadara Gerasa

Lk8:26 Gadara Gerasa

-all three passages are referring to the same event

-3 different places are mentioned

-all 3 different places are found on some Greek manuscript 4each pssg!!!

The translations reflect the Greek text used in the translation

All 3 in Decapolis – mentioned 3X’s in NT Mt4:25, Mk5:20 Mk7:31

10 city states united by language [Grk], culture, religion, location, politics

Founded 323-63BC, 63BC Pompey conquered, organized, autonomous

Direct Roman rule in AD106 Trajan

primarily Greek, some Jews may have lived in the Decapolis

Gerasa ~30 miles SE of the Sea of Galilee

Gadara ~5 miles SE of the Sea of Galilee

Gerge[a]sa ~ location is uncertain but it is thought to be modern Kursi on the

shore of the Sea of Galilee in the Golan Heights ~6mi. by sea from Capernaum

Gergesa seems to be the best fit but it has the least text support

-close to the shore of the Sea of Galilee, necessary for drowning of swine

-Gadara and Gerasa are too far away from a body of water large enuf, unless ‘rgional’

Different places have similar spellings and pronunciation. Somehow the different

manuscript traditions rose up. Many of these mss annotate the othr names

with ‘corrections’ i.e. written in the margins

Neither textual issue should bother you. The differences validate the authenticity of the

mss traditions showing that they kept what they had, knowing there were differences.

Someone did not come along and ‘smooth out’ the differences – they knew abt them and left them

**I. When Jesus Says ‘GO’ – The Demons ‘GO’ 28-32**

A. Jesus arrives at Gergesa – recall 8:18 get away from crowd but approached by …

Two Demon-possessed men met Jesus 28

Coming out of the tombs, Extremely fierce, No one could pass that way

Mark52-5 unclean, untamable, night/day cry out cut self Lk827naked

Sk2destroy man as an image bearer of God, wht dignity man shldB

Rob of: sanity, self-control, home, friends

Mk59/Lk830 name is Legion – Rom.Legion had 5 to 6K, here2K

Excursus on demons [mostly fm Chuck Swindoll]

Wrong perspectives: deny existence, lighthearted harmless

preoccupy see them as responsible for every …

Biblical Vu – demons are invisible angelic beings in serv of Satan Mt2541Rv129

-active engaged in evil objectives Mt41-111Co1020 2Co1113-15 2Th28-10 -have supernatural powers, desire worship Rv9:20

-can sometimes inhabit animals or humans Mt8:16,28

Influence believers but possess unbelievers

-seek to undermine God’s kingdom and salv of people

-will be sent to a place of torment Rv20:10

-1J4:4 greater Spirit in us not fear, also Jude 9-10 respect for them

-under sovereignty of God

-spiritual war against them E6:12

-deceive and produce bad doctrine 1Ti4:1

Demon possessed men cry out 29

What have we to do with You JS, Son of God? –recognize Him Mt317 43

Have you come here to torment us before the time? Rv2010 Jude6

Demon possessed men request to be cast into a herd of swine 30-31

Herd of swine [ Mk5:13 2Kswine] feeding 30

This is *not* a Jewish area but rather Greek, they raise and eat swine

Beg Jesus to cast them into the herd of swine 31

I think they want to destroy one last time before being banished

B. Jesus says ‘GO’ 32

Jesus says ‘GO’ – one word ‘GO’ and they go, such is the power of Jesus

Jesus permitted it – I am not sure why

Demons come out and suddenly whole herd run down perish in the water

**II. When Jesus Says ‘GO’ – The Healed Man ‘GOES’**

A. Jesus told to ‘GO’ by the townspeople 33-34

Pigherders report to the city what happened to the pigs and the men 33

JS came into a largely Gentile area to escape a crowd, met a man w need

Whole city came out to meet Jesus – they beg Him to ‘go’, leave, depart 34

Yes demon-possessed men free, but large financial loss with Jesus

Afraid of Jesus Mk5:15, Lk8:37– not angry w JS, His holiness Is6

Values of these people – prefer demon possessed man to the Savior

B. Jesus tells the healed men[man] to ‘GO’

Matthew does not record this, lets turn to Mark and Luke

Mark and Luke

JS returns 2th boat and one of the men begs JS to go w Him Mk518/Lk838

Jesus did not permit him

Jesus told him to GO to his home and friends and tell them great things

Lord has done for you, how He had compassion on him Mk5:19

Lukes account says ‘what great things Jesus had done’ Lk8:39

Man went and proclaimed in the Decapolis and all marveled

**Lessons**

1. Jesus was getting away from the crowd when this situation came up, He was tired yet

He helped these 2 men. Help if you can even when tired.

2. Jesus is still saying ‘GO’ to us – missionary support and mission Mt28:19

3. Revitalized believers only need to hear and believe 1 word from JS

4. Demons are real and evil and cannot stand against God. Need spiritual armor E6+10-18

5. Fear is a powerful influencer against the good God did and will do

6. Go and tell someone this week what great things God has done for you.

7. Jesus has power over the supernatural i.e. the demonic spirits.