

COME OUT OF THE TOMBS

Bishop Samuel R. Blakes

Mark 5:2-9

And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, Who had his dwelling among the tombs... But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not... And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

This text shows us a man in profound distress. But it also gives us a mirror to look at the condition of manhood in our society today. If we are going to experience emotional healing and step into true spiritual authority, we have to deal with what is happening in the graveyard.

1. The Anatomy of a Graveyard Mentality

This man in the text had his dwelling among the tombs. He lived where things were decaying.

Many men today are living in the tombs of their history. You are living in the tomb of what your father did not do for you. You are living in the tomb of a past failure, a broken marriage, a financial collapse, or an addiction that you cannot seem to shake. Culture tells us to just man up, push the pain down, and keep grinding. But the result is a generation of men who are strong on the outside and bleeding to death on the inside.

He isolated himself in the mountains, crying and cutting himself with stones. When a man is hurting and does not know how to bring that hurt to God, he will find a way to punish himself. We cut ourselves with toxic relationships.

We cut ourselves with wrong attitudes. We cut ourselves with substances. The pain on the inside demands a release, and without Jesus, we will tear our own lives apart.

2. The Danger of Pretentious Worship

Something striking happens when Jesus steps off the boat. Verse 6 says the man ran and worshipped Him. But in the very next breath, a voice cries out from inside the man, "What have I to do with thee... torment me not."

This is the picture of a divided man. He has the posture of worship, but his mind is still held hostage. He bows his knees to Jesus, but his spirit is fighting the very deliverance he needs. He is saying, "I acknowledge who You are, but please do not change me. Do not disrupt my dysfunction. Do not touch my secret pain."

We have to be honest about the danger of pretentious worship. It is entirely possible to know how to perform on Sunday morning while living in a tomb on Monday. A lot of men know how to stand in the sanctuary, lift their hands, and sing the songs, but the moment God's word challenges their pride, their anger, or their secret habits, they cry out, "Do not torment me!" They want the comfort of religion without the disruption of real transformation.

Worship without surrender is just a performance. You cannot come to the altar asking for God's blessing while refusing to let go of the demons that are destroying your house. God is not interested in your performance. He is after your freedom.

3. Identifying With the War Within

Jesus refuses to play games with the man's condition. He cuts right through the noise and asks a profoundly simple question in verse 9: "What is thy name?"

The man's answer breaks your heart. He does not give the name his mother gave him. He does not give his family name. He says, "My name is Legion: for we are many." A legion was a Roman military unit of up to six thousand

soldiers. This man had lost his identity so completely that he identified himself by the war going on inside of his own mind.

How many men in our culture are walking around right now identifying themselves by their battles? If you ask them who they are, they will hand you their trauma. "I'm a divorced man. I'm a recovering addict. I'm an ex-convict. I'm a failure." They have allowed the warfare in their minds to rename them.

Jesus asked for his name because He wanted the man to realize he had lost sight of who he was created to be. You are not the abuse you suffered. You are not the mistake you made in your twenties. You are not the anxiety that keeps you awake at night. Stop introducing yourself by the war you are fighting and remember the God who formed you. You are a son of the Most High God, and it is time you reclaim your name.

4. The Threat of a Healed Man

Jesus speaks the word, and the unclean spirits are cast out. Verse 15 tells us the townspeople come out and find the man sitting, clothed, and in his right mind.

But look at their reaction. They were not throwing a celebration. They were afraid. In fact, they begged Jesus to leave their city.

We live in a society that actually wants to keep you sick. The culture is comfortable with you when you are out of control. The world is perfectly fine with you being angry, emotionally absent, addicted, and irresponsible. They have systems built to manage your dysfunction. They have entire industries built to profit off your pain. When you are living in the tombs, destroying yourself, nobody bothers you.

But the moment you surrender to Jesus Christ - the moment you get your mind right, stop cutting yourself, and become a disciplined, faithful man of God - the system gets nervous.

A healed man is a threat to the enemy's agenda. A man in his right mind breaks generational curses. A man clothed in righteousness changes the trajectory of his entire bloodline. Do not be surprised when people get uncomfortable with your growth. The people who used to visit you in the

graveyard will not know what to do with your resurrection. Let them be disturbed.

5. Stepping Into Your Designed Greatness

Jesus did not deliver this man just to leave him empty. When the man begged to go with Jesus in the boat, Jesus told him no. He gave him an assignment: "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee."

Your deliverance is not just for you. Your healing is for your house.

Brothers, it is time to come out of the tombs. It is time to leave the skeletal remains of what this world told you a man should be. You do not have to carry the mental strongholds of anger, bitterness, and rejection anymore.

Drop the stones you have been using to punish yourself. Stop settling for a pretentious worship that refuses to change. Let go of the trauma you have been using as an identity. The graveyard is no place for a king, and the tombs are no place for a priest.

Stand up, men of God. Step out of the tombs. Your family is waiting on you. Your church is waiting on you. Your true identity is waiting on you. Come out and live.