

We Want Our Hogs!

Text—Mark 5:1-20

Introduction:

A. (Read Text then Summarize as below.)

1. A story of a man possessed by demons being healed by Jesus
 - a. He was a man abiding among the dead, for the living had rejected him.
 - b. He was naked, homeless, wounded, uncontrollable, but Jesus healed him.
 - c. Response of others—vs. 17 “And they began to beseech Him to depart from their borders.”
2. Why a departure?
 - a. The Great Physician at their door—Healings, blessings, salvation
 - b. Told him to move along.
 - c. Afraid to lose more swine.
3. We want our Hogs!
 - a. Desired things of the world more than the spiritual.

B. Hogs of the World

1. The hog of dishonesty.
2. The hog of popularity.
3. The hog of entertainment and worldly pleasures
4. The hog of pride.

6. The hog of riches and covetousness.
7. The hog of opinions of men.

C. Many Hogs of the world all connected together. “Legion” (vs. 9)

D. Look at riches and covetousness tonight

I. Materialism: Riches and Covetousness

A. All will admit materialism is a problem.

1. Few admit they are material-minded
2. Some prefer things of this world more.

B. Can't Live without...

1. Money
 - a. Pay bills
 - b. Buy groceries
 - c. Keep things we own; car, house, etc.
2. Material things
 - a. House
 - b. Car
 - c. Clothes

C. Emphasis easily misplaced on material things.

D. Prov. 13: 7, *“There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.”*

1. Some who have money act poor.
2. Others who are poor act rich.
3. Mindset of the individual

II. What is Materialism?

A. **Defined**—2. *The theory or attitude that physical well-being and worldly possessions constitute the greatest good and highest value in life.* 3. *A great or excessive regard for worldly concerns.* (American Heritage Dictionary)

B. It is not wealth; amount of money (being rich is not sinful) but the mindset of the person

Wealth—Both Good and Bad

1. Rich-- Faithful men
 - a. Abraham (Gen. 13: 1-2; Heb. 11: 8-9)
 - b. Job (1: 3, 8)
 - c. Joseph of Arimathea—Matt. 27: 57-60
2. Rich—Condemned
 - a. Loved Money (Rich Young Ruler)—Matt. 19: 16-22
 - b. Covetous (Rich Fool)—Lk. 12: 13-21

- c. Selfish (Rich man and Lazarus)—Lk. 16: 19-31
- d. Trust in Riches (Laodeica--LEAH-DASEEA) Rev. 3: 14-17

C. Many Forms of Materialism

- 1. Seeking it—Matt. 6: 19-21
- 2. Worry, Anxiety about it—Matt. 6: 25-33
- 3. Focus is Money only—1 Tim. 6: 10
 - a. “Love”—money itself not evil
 - b. Need money and material things

Possible to be wealthy and not Material-minded as well as Poor and material-minded.

III. Dangers of Materialism

A. Can forget God—Deut. 6: 10-12; Prov. 30: 7-9 (Wisdom of Agur)

B. Can choke the Word—

- 1. Lk. 8: 14(parable of Sower) ***“And that which fell among the thorns, these are they that have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of `this' life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”*** Accept the word but forget it once they are back in the world—Denom.
- 2. 1 Tim. 6: 20, ***“O Timothy, guard that which is committed unto `thee', turning away from the profane babblings and oppositions of the knowledge which is falsely so called”.*** False doctrines can choke the word especially those who say you need to give money to assure your place in heaven.

C. Possible to trust riches—

1. Prov. 10: 15—Rich people use their money as a stronghold and defense against other things.
2. Prov. 11: 28—Too much trust in money will bring about the end of some people.

D. Could be greedy for more—

1. Prov. 15: 27—Some may desire money to the point of taking it from their own family members.
2. Prov. 28:20, ***“A faithful man shall abound with blessings; But he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be unpunished.”***
Some make hasty business deals or bad investments to earn quick cash only to lose in the end.

E. Feel superior—

1. Prov. 22: 7—“Rich rules”. Having a high-powered position as a CEO declares you ruler over others.
2. Prov. 18: 23—***“The poor useth entreaties; But the rich answereth roughly”***. “Roughly” as in with force or violence. Superiority sometimes means to “crush” the competition.
3. Prov. 28: 11—***“The rich man is wise in his own eyes, But the poor who has understanding searches him out.”*** Vanity is a major fuel to those who feel superior with riches.
4. 1 Tim. 6: 17, ***Paul’s warning to Timothy, “Charge them that are rich in this present world, that they be not highminded, nor have their hope set on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy”***. Make sure God comes

first in all decisions involving money or other materialistic things.

F. Have more than can afford (**Debt!!**) —

1. Rom. 13: 8—***“Owe no man anything, save to love one another: for he that loveth his neighbor hath fulfilled the law.”*** This is not to say you can’t take out a loan for a car or have a mortgage for a house. But to owe several loans plus payments on several credit cards, and claim not to have enough money for the offering plate on Sunday.

IV. How to Prevent this Hog—Butcher Hog (Eph. 6:17)

“...sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” **Why?** Heb. 4: 12, ***“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”***

A. Understand some things are worth more...

1. Wisdom—Prob. 3: 13-15 (Solomon sought out wisdom...)
2. Fear—Prob. 15: 16; 22: 4 (No fear; thinks to buy your way into heaven)
3. Righteousness—Prob. 16: 8 (Dishonesty to gain wealth)
4. Integrity—Prob. 19:1 (Life consistent with belief; especially in a Christian’s life. Claim to be a Christian, “walk the walk, talk the talk” Life must completely reflect the belief. Further example in Ps. 26: 1-2, ***“Judge me, O Jehovah, for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in Jehovah without wavering. 2. Examine me, O Jehovah, and prove me; Try my heart and my mind.”*** This is not daring God but showing that one’s life is

following their beliefs to where they are confident enough to allow God to examine them and even test their integrity.

5. Good Name—Prob.22: 1 Some people say having a good name is not really important. How many named their children Judas, Jezebel, or Benedict?
 6. Soul—Matt. 16:26, ***“For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?”*** Heard the phrase, “I’d sell my own soul...” Literally can’t be done. Actions show motives and basically would put wealth before all other things listed.
- B. Set affections on things above—Col. 3: 1-2; 1 John 2: 15-17
- C. Realize Riches no help in Judgment—Prob. 11: 4, ***“Riches profit not in the day of wrath; But righteousness delivereth from death.”*** God doesn’t care how big your bank account was, or your stock portfolio.
- D. Material things is not what life is about—Luke 12:15; Eccl. 12: 13-14
- E. Riches are temporary—Prob. 23: 4-5; 1 Tim. 6:7 (here now, gone later)
- F. Learn Contentment—1 Tim. 6: 5-6; Heb. 13:5; Phil. 4: 11 (Be happy with the things that you have not the things that you want.) Matt. 6: 34, ***“Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”***

Conclusion:

Which do you want? Hog of Materialism or Christ Jesus?

Matt. 6: 24, ***“No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”***

If not a Christian, too material-minded and focused on present not your future; eternal future. 2 Peter 3: 10, ***“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up”***. All materialistic things will be burned up with the earth. “You can’t take it with you!”

Those who are Christians who aren’t even here tonight. Why? Perhaps too many material things to attend services more than once a week

Those Christians here, which is comes first in your life? The love for God or money?