

## Worldly Desires Influence Spiritual Decisions

“Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one [who had been] demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him [who had been] demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.” (Mark 5:15-17 NKJV)

There is no doubt that coming to Christ will influence the way you live. Priorities must change. What was once important must become secondary to your life in Christ.

Many never even try to make this commitment. Like the rich young ruler, they simply go away sad when confronted with the cost of following Christ. Others make a good start of it, but soon fall away like the soil that has the thorns. The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke out the word and it becomes unfruitful.

Clearly the men who owned the swine were more concerned about their livelihood than about the man who had been healed or the nature of this great healer in their midst. What an amazingly foolish choice to send the Savior of the world away.

Is the church any different when it embraces all manner of foolishness to enhance its bottom line? I speak of the organization. It's all about being seeker friendly these days. Maybe it would be good to stop and ask this question; what is it that the people are really seeking, and what should they be seeking? Furthermore, what is the Lord seeking?

We are not at liberty to approach God anyway we desire. He is to be worshiped in Spirit and truth. He is to receive the praise of our lips. He is to hear the prayers of His people. He is to receive the sacrifices of broken and contrite hearts. What an abomination it must be when churches set up worldly devices to attract the pagans so they can say look the Lord is blessing us with all these people.

You leaders that read this will you please come before the Lord and ask Him what He desires in His church? Please note the men greedy of filthy lucre and don't inadvertently expel the Lord from your worship services. Wouldn't it be far better to see he who was demon possessed clothed in righteousness and in his right mind? Surely, this is why you entered the ministry.

Many of you have inherited your situations. All of you have inherited the traditions of the past. However, at least take this appeal to the Lord. Ask Him to evaluate everything you do during a worship service to see if it is indeed honoring to Him.

We don't want to be guilty of sending the Lord away because it might cost us something. Nor do we want to send Him away because we are not concerned for the spiritual wellbeing of those who attend. I don't believe for a moment that that is your desire. Therefore, I beg you to spend some time in prayer seeking the Lord's heart on this vital subject.

Father, You alone are worthy of worship. Forgive us when we fail to give You what You deserve. Help your people to see the high places that need to be torn down. We do not want to pollute your sanctuary with the Asherahs. We desire for you to be magnified and worshiped, amen.