



### From our story to His story...

1. Begin thinking about the ways God has taken you from a place or position of loneliness and alienation to a place or position of community. In the space below, identify specific ways or even specific demons he removed from your life in order to restore you to your family or your community. Consider how he has established his relationship with you and given you godly relationships with people..

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2. Now identify how the story of the Gadarene demoniac relates to your own life. Then write your own story, beginning with the following sentence:

One of my favorite stories about Jesus is when:  
(Fill in details of story in approximately 3-4 sentences here...)

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3. The whole point of the story is to show us that Jesus came to... (State the reason why Jesus came, i.e., to restore us, to rescue us, to reveal Himself to us, etc.)

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4. Would you like to know more about how God wants to include you in His family?

### EXAMPLE...

*You know, one of my favorite stories about Jesus is when a woman who had a really bad reputation for sin – most likely as a prostitute – came to Jesus. She was an outcast in her society, and no one thought Jesus should even speak to her, but he welcomed her into his presence, forgave her of all her sins, and eventually she left with a peace and wholeness that she would experience for the rest of her life. When everyone else looked at her with shame, Jesus honored her in his presence. The point of this story is to show how Jesus takes us, even in the middle of all our sin and shame, and he receives us into His family when we trust in Him. Would you like to know more about how God wants to honor you by receiving you into his presence?*

After completing the homework above, get prepared to share that particular story at a moment's notice. Then pray specifically for an opportunity to share it with someone else this week. As you have the opportunity to share your story and/or His story, be ready to share with fellow believers how God involved you in His work!

# The Many Faces



## Of Salvation:

## The Face of Alienation

September 27, 2009



## ANOTHER FACE OF SALVATION

### Part 2: The Face of Alienation

#### Two Verses:

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:19-20*

- Before we followed Jesus, we were alienated from God
- After we began following Jesus, things changed:
  - We became citizens of God's Kingdom
  - We became members of God's family.

#### One Story: Mk 5:1-20

5 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him. 3 This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. 4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. 7 With a shriek, he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit."

9 Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?"

And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man."

10 Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.

11 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. 12 "Send us into those pigs," the spirits begged. "Let us enter them."

13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

14 The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. 15 A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. 16 Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. 17 And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. 19 But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." 20 So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

#### Note in this story:

- The man was well known but all alone. His demons isolated him from
  - His fellow citizens
  - His family
- Jesus used the community's resources to heal the demon-possessed man.
  - The community was afraid.
  - The community asked Jesus to leave.
- The healed man didn't want to go back to his family and friends.
  - Jesus told him to go back and testify about the Lord.

#### Questions

1. What do you resonate with in this story?
2. What do you not understand about this story?
3. What is God saying to you in this story?
4. How are you going to be obedient to God based on what He has said to you?