

Close Encounters

The Other Side

Mark 5:1-20

Ron Marsh

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Introduction: Who matters to God?

I. The *call* to go to “the other side” ~ Mark 4:35

A. A *geographical* place

1. The *Decapolis: 10* cities,
7 pagan nations ~ Joshua 3:10, Acts 13:19

B. An *unclean* place

1. They were *Gentiles*
2. They worshiped other *gods*
3. They prized their *pigs*

♦ Principle: People on “the other side” *matter* to *God!*

C. A *demonic* welcome

II. The *transformation* of a *madman* ~ Mark 5:1-20

A. The man’s desperate *situation*

1. He lived in isolation among the *dead*
2. He was *hopeless*
3. He was *helpless*
4. He was *confronted* with Jesus

B. The man’s radical *change*

1. It was *miraculous*
2. It was *dramatic*
3. It was *complete*
 - a. He was *calm, clothed* and under *control*
4. It was *threatening*

C. The man’s new *mission*

1. His *desire* to go with Jesus
2. His *comission* to go tell his story
3. His *obedience* to the master’s call

III. The long term *effect* ~ Matthew 15:29-31

A. A *second* trip to “the other side”

1. A warm *welcome* and worshipful *response*

Question: What *changed*?

Answer: One man was *obedient* to share his *God* story

IV. So what can I do?

1. *Love* people *unconditionally*
2. *Serve* people *sacrificially*
3. *Pray* for people *continually*
4. *Tell* people about your God story *faithfully*