Of One Accord

Title –What Would You Do For a King

Purpose/Review

Did you invite someone to church this week…?

This past we I was watching a podcast from Pastor Ted Freil

What would you do for a king?
by Clay Crosse 2000

What would you do for a king
If He won all the battles He went out to fight
And returned as a hero on a starlit night to a cheering crowd...
Would it make you proud?

And what would you do for a king
If He kept every promise that He'd ever made
Would you get out the tickertape and lead a parade, a society ball...
Or would you care at all?

And what would you do for a king
If He took off his crown and agreed to die
And as you tried to understand it, He looked you in the eye and said,
This is for you...Well, what would you do?

What would you do for a king?

Obviously… Clay Crosse was asking this question about King Jesus….

It's a great question…. How would our behavior change…?

STORY-

Years ago we started a civic group in Eagle Rock
Eagle Rock is known as the Red Headed Step Child of Botetourt County

We would have 30-40 people show up for the meetings
People from all walks of life
Preachers… farmers…. Construction workers… moms and dads
Everyone came just as they are…Slacks and a nice shirt…. Bib Overalls… blue jeans

This one particular meeting we invited Governor George Allen to come speak to us
And to our surprise he agreed

I was finishing up work and rushing to the Eagle Rock Elementary School to attend
Wearing Blue Jeans and a work shirt… I had just gotten off of work

To my amazement… Not only was the room packed with people
But… I couldn't believe my eyes… Everyone was dressed up
As if they were going out to a nice dinner

Obviously… word got out… and people were inviting people to attend

Funny how our behavior can change…

EXPERIMENT-

Let's set up and experiment… and we are all going to be the guinea pigs
Who is your favorite singer…Who is your favorite actor…?
What if we had invited Billy Graham and he accepted our invitation…?

Now imagine that we were able to secure them to come speak on a Tuesday night…

Even though it's in the middle of the week… would you attend?
Even though it gets dark at 5:30… would you attend?

Would you attend by yourself or would you invite others?

What Would You Do For a King…?

SERMON TITLE –Gratitude (What Would You Do For a King)

Slide – Scripture Reading Mark 5:1-20

NOTE-
This story is also found in Matthew and Luke… each adding detail to the story

Reading

Mark 5:1-20(**Gar**-ri-sons)
1 They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. 2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, 3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. 6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; 7 and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" 8 For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. 12 The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." 13 Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.
14 Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the "legion"; and they became frightened. 16 Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine. 17 And they began to implore Him to leave their region.
18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. 19 And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

Doctrinal

Mark 5(**Gar**-ri-sons)
1 They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes…. 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis

SLIDE – Decapolis (10 Cities)

The country of the (**Gar**-ri-sons) was located on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

The Decapolis (Ten Cities) - was a loose league of cities straddling the Jordan River Valley. Most lay east of the Jordan River in what is now Jordan, with a few in Israel and Syria.

There are 5 truths that we observe from our reading…

Jesus' Absolute Authority

NOTE-
Our reading demonstrates that Jesus possesses supreme powerover the spiritual realm.
The demons immediately recognized Him as the Son of God
And acknowledge that they are subject to His will

They pleaded for permission to enter the pigs
Rather than resisting His command

This confirms that evil forces are subordinate to Christ
And can only act within the boundaries He permits

Mark 4
40 And He said to them, Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith? 41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?

The second truth we discover is…

The Infinite Value of Human Life

NOTE-
It was more important to Jesus to restore one human soul
Rather than worry about the loos of significant material wealth

The destruction of the herd, which numbered approximately two thousand pigs
Resulted in substantial financial loss for the locals

Human beings are infinitely more valuable than property
And Jesus was willing to incur whatever the economic cost
To liberate individuals from suffering

NOTE-
Jesus is King… yet He willing gave up the riches of heaven
So that you and I could receive eternal life with Him

John 3
16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

NOTE-
The man's restoration was worth far more to Jesus than the 2,000 pigs
However, in contrast… the crowd valued their economic loss over the man's deliverance

They wanted to more of Jesus and implored Him to leave
Some had witnessed the miracle first hand and chose to remain blind

A great example of how people choose worldly possessions over spiritual truth

The Danger of Materialism and Fear

NOTE-

The townspeople's reaction highlights the hardness of their heart
They prioritize economic stability over spiritual deliverance

Instead of celebrating the man's freedom, they were afraid and asked Jesus to leave
Preferring the status quo of prosperity
Over the disruptive power of divine intervention

Do we have eyes to see the warning displayed in this narrative?

There is a danger in valuing material gain above the transformative work of God

Matthew 16
26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

The Destructive Nature of Evil

NOTE-

The demons' request to enter the pigs reveals their inherently destructive intent
By driving the herd into the sea to drown
They exposed that their goal is chaos and death

John 10
10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

NOTE-

This event serves as a visible metaphor for how demonic influence seeks to destroy Contrasting Jesus' mission to bring healing and peace and life

We also should take notice of something interesting…

Demons have faith… They know their final judgment

Listen to their prayers…

Luke 8
31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

Implore – beseech; desire; pray

They knew that Jesus was the Son of God… and they knew their destiny…

Matthew 8 NIV
29 What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?

James reveals the same truth…

James 2
19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

Let's finish our lesson unpacking the last 3 verses of our reading…

With the title of our message as a filter…What Would You Do For a King?

Mark 5
18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. 19 And He did not let him, but He said to him…

…Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for youand how He had mercy on you. 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

Before we continue let me draw your attention to something very important…

What did Jesus tell the man to do… report of the great things the Lord has done…

The Lord – the title give to God; to the Messiah

And what did the man do… he proclaimed the great thing Jesus had done…

He knew that Jesus was the Son of God

Application

So let's finish with three questions…

First QUESTION?

Video only… not for slide show

What would you do for a king if He won all the battles He went out to fight…?

Mark 5
18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him.

The man was battling demons… and Jesus won the battle for him…

Let us rest in this same understanding…

Exodus 14
14 The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

NOTE-
Whatever the battle… whatever the challenges that we find ourselves in
Remember… God's got this…

All we have to do is to surrender our struggles to the to divine Lordship of Jesus…

OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Deuteronomy 20:4

Deuteronomy 20
4 for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

Second QUESTION?

Video only… not for slide show

What would you do for a king if He kept every promise that He'd ever made…?

There are around 7000 promises made by God in the bible…

Seven made by Jesus…

One that we can lay hands on today and claim for ourselves…

Matthew 11
28 Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Not only do we find rest… Jesus promised us peace…

John 14
27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Third QUESTION?

Video only… not for slide show

What would you do for a king if He took off His crown and agreed to die and He looked you in the eye and said this is for you...

What did the healed man do…?

Mark 5
20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

SLIDE - Decapolis

NOTE-
Remember that this area was mostly inhabited by Gentiles
He didn't just go to his home… he went throughout the 10 cities
Proclaiming the great things that Jesus had done for Him

Making him the first evangelist to the Gentiles…

What about you…

What will you do for the King…?

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