

August 2006

*"Go home to thy friends and tell them what great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee."* Mark 5:19b

When I was a young person the price of gasoline at the pumps was about 33 cents per gallon. I remember the occasional gas war when it would drop to about 25 cents per gallon. That's a far cry from the \$3.00 to \$4.00 price per gallon we are paying today. It was a different time. But that's not all I remember about traveling in those days. I remember driving around the community to pick up people to take them to church, a local, independent, fundamental, Bible believing church. And I remember the testimony of that church in the community through the witness of the local people who were members and faithfully attended it. Unfortunately, that was a different day too.

When the Lord healed the demoniac of Gadera, the man who had once dwelt among the tombs of the dead, desired to go live with his Savior. However, Jesus commanded his new disciple to "go home" and tell his friends the great things the Lord had done for him. The newly saved man's desire to be with Jesus was good, but it was not God's will for him at that time. The citizens of Gadera needed to see the compassion of Christ. They would see it in this man whose life had been radically changed by the Lord.

Today, there are many Christians who have abandoned the local church and the testimony of Christ in their own communities. They now travel many miles to churches in other communities, while they neglect the faithful local assemblies in their own. They do this not because these local churches are unfaithful to the Word of God, but because many Christians no longer consider the will of God to be important. If God has placed a faithful, fundamental, Bible believing, separated church in your community, your witness is greatly hindered if you neglect to attend what He has established.

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Ezra 7:10*

### Sunday Scripture meditation passages for August 2006

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**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 11:1-19

**Meditation:** What did John the Baptist ask Jesus? What was Jesus' reply? Who did Jesus say John the Baptist was? (v.10 and v.14) How did the Israelites respond to John's ministry according to verses 16-18? How did the Israelites respond to Jesus according to verse 19? How should you respond to the Word of God as His messenger proclaims it to you?

13

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 56

**Meditation:** Why was David oppressed? To whom did David turn when he was afraid? What question does David ask in verse 7? In response to the question what does David ask God to do? According to verses 8 and 9, what did David know? In verse 12, to whose vows is David referring? Does God break His vows? In verse 13, what does David desire from God?

20

**Scripture Reading:** Acts 14:1-28

**Meditation:** What are the cities listed in the passage where Paul and Barnabas preached? Who stirred up trouble for Paul and Barnabas in Lystra? Where did Paul go the day after he was stoned at Lystra? In what cities did Paul and Barnabas confirm the souls of the disciples? These disciples were in attendance in their local churches in their own communities. What was in every church according to verse 23?

27

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 16:17-27

**Meditation:** According to verse 17, what are we to do with those that cause divisions in the Church and do not hold to Biblical doctrine as taught by the apostles? What were the Roman Christians known for in verse 19? What is "now made manifest," according to verses 25 and 26? Why did God make known the Gospel to all nations?