## What Has Jesus Done For You? – <u>Asaolu O. S.</u>

## Sermon @ COC UNILAG [Aug 13, 2023]

**Introduction**: This admonition is to spur us to testify of the Lord's goodness. If we do not acknowledge His help and blessings, others will wonder what kind of God we serve and think He puts us in a miserable existence. In every incident of life and with living itself, there are alternate perspectives, he one you emphasize will kindle people's reaction so we need to be factual on what God has done.

Luke 8:26 And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. 27 And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. 29 (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) 30 And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. 31 And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. 32 And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. 33 Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked. 34 When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 36 They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. 37 Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again. 38 Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him. 40 And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.

Firstly, we see that the numerous demons in the possessed man recognized Jesus as the Christ and ultimate Judge. They knew he would save the man from them and pleaded not to be sent into the abyss. Jesus heeded the demons' plea temporarily. Likewise, even the prayers of sinners may seem to be heard in a season in which God wants to grant reprieve or relief and should be an opportunity for such to turn in their ways.

Secondly, under MOSAIC Law, the Israelites were prohibited from eating or even touching the carcass of swine. Keeping herds of swine was not an expediency thus, the destruction of the flock was justified, and the demons would ultimately not have their desire fulfilled. The testimony of the pig owners who suffered economic loss and of the observers who were amazed and unfamiliar with Christ must have being jaundiced to scare the people of Gadarenes. They plausibly saw Jesus as an unkind or uncaring Lord just as sceptics and atheists do today.

Finally, do we perceive how Jesus foreknew that the healed demoniac would be more useful if he went back to his area to testify of what really transpired? The change in the man's state was NOT sufficient to spur people to faith until he announced what Jesus has done for him! **Did we notice how same event got different narration** from the people and elicit contrary disposition of the people unto Jesus? Be assured that many do not know the story of your life or what you are going through. They wonder how you profess Christ and His Church since they cannot appreciate anything about your condition. You alone can count your blessings and enumerate the extraordinary things that the Lord has granted in marvelous and providential ways.

**Conclusion**: Be grateful, the Psalmist said: "*the Lord has been good unto me, His praise shall continually be in my mouth… come and taste that the LORD is good.*" Also, appreciate your spouse, family and friends. If all you ever do is complain and criticize, your emphatic nagging will not produce a good reaction. When you commend or praise, you attract greater favour from God and mankind. [Watch video on <u>COC UNILAG Facebook Page</u>]