**Scripture Readings:** Mark 5:1-20

**Singing:** 134:1-3 – 174:1-4 – 305:1, 2, 5 – 224:1, 2, 4, 6

**Intro: *As Christ’s Kingly office is the crown of His offices, so is the life of***

 ***sanctification the crown of God’s redemptive work.***

**The Privileges and Calling of Being a Christian**

1) To share Christ’s teaching ministry of truth

2) To share Christ priestly ministry of love

3) To share Christ’s Kingly rule forever

**I. The privilege and calling of sharing Christ’s teaching ministry of truth**

A. Legion pictures the essence of our fallen condition (Mark 5:2-5)

B. After his redemption he was privileged to become a ‘preacher’ (vs. 19)

 1. all believers are called to the *preachers* (Acts 8:4; Matt. 5:16; Phil 2:15)

 a. called to be *witnesses* of what God has done for/in us (1 Tim. 1:12-16)

 2. God expects His people to use this privilege: 1 Peter 2:9; 3:15

 a. He calls us to live among people who are *hurting – erring – lost*

 b. true compassion cannot let others continue way destruction

c. different approaches or methods are needed

 3. yet one method ‘everyone can hear’ (Ps. 19:1-3; 1 Peter 3:1)

**II. The Privilege and calling of sharing Christ’s priestly ministry of love**

A. Legion’s first sacrifice of love was to *obey Jesus’ command & return: 5:20*

 1. He ‘departed’ from Him and served others in his community

 2. To ‘present yourself/life’ a living sacrifice is *costly love*: see Mark 10:45!

 a. the heart of Christ’s priestly ministry was *sacrificial love*

 b. the Christian’s priestly sacrifice is to *exercise real, life-changing love*

 ● to sacrificially love is usually very draining or costly

c. God expects His people to *love sacrificially in any setting*

• Jeremiah’s letter to the captives in Babylon (Jer. 29:5-7)

 3. This sacrifice of yourself is only genuine if done out of thankfulness for His

 a. it is possible to be *‘unselfish’* for *selfish reasons*

 b. true sacrificial love is such that flows from faith in Christ’s sacrifice

 (Gal 2:20)

 ● *“All this I did for you; what do you for Me?”*

**III. The Privilege and calling of sharing in Christ’s Kingly rule forever**

A. God declared ‘enmity’ against the empire of darkness (Gen. 3:15)

 1. Those redeemed are now enlisted in the *militant church* to fight a holy War

 a. that begins when God makes us willing in the day of His power

b. that battle is fought with a *free and good conscience*

 2. Count it a privilege to be part of the ‘militant church’ or Christ’s body

 a. all God’s children will have different positions in this Kingdom

 b. but all God’s children are to be involved in this battle against sin as

 part of Christ’s body: 1 Tim. 6:11-12

B. The final privilege of the redeemed will be to *share Christ’s reign eternally*

 1. The details are obscure as yet but the future is secure: 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev.

3:21; 1 Cor. 6:2-3

**Closing Call**: The King is still enlisting into this privileged army!