

## The American Dream or The American Demise?

- Financial comfort
- Job w/meaning and clout
- Epic children
- Good health
- Regular fun experiences
- Soul mate
- Sexual fulfillment
- Instafame
- Self-autonomy & expression

The American Dream leaves us:

1. Disappointed
2. Denial
3. Defeated

You are trying to become the person  
God created you to be without God.  
That's impossible.

## Luke 8:26-39

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met Him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before Him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have You to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me” — for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man.

## Luke 8:26-39

(For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.)

Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged Him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

## Luke 8:26-39

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So He gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country.

## Luke 8:26-39

Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed.

## Luke 8:26-39

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So He got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

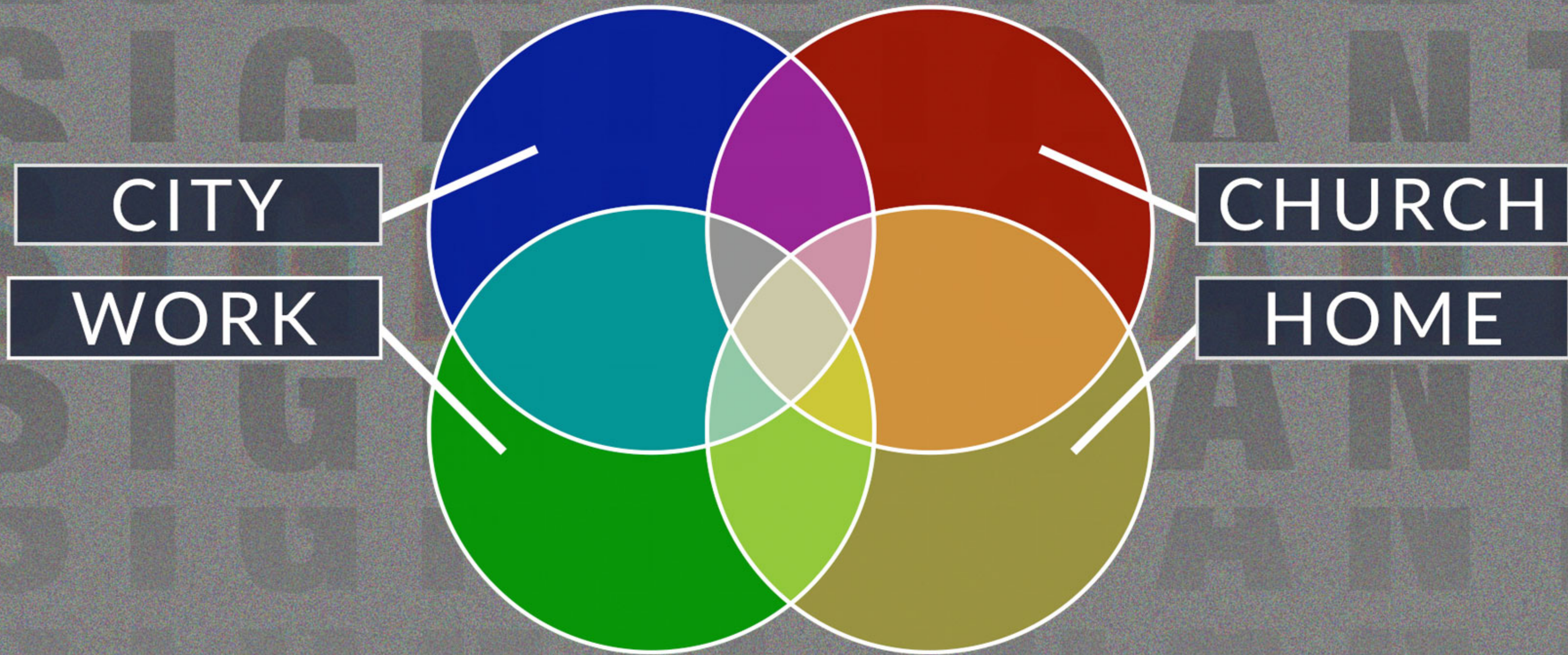


- Jesus and gang GO TO unclean city.
- Naked, psychotic, chain-breaking, screaming, demon-man accosts them.
- Jesus and demons commence conversation.
- Demons sent into pigs. Man's humanity restored.
- Word spreads. Locals freak. Jesus asked to leave.
- Man begs to leave with Jesus.
- Man sent to stay.
- Jesus leaves.
- Man accepts the mission.

## Basic Christianity

- Gather weekly with church fam.
- Pray and meditate daily on scripture.
- Share faith with others.
- Give generously.
- Live in community.
- Hold one another accountable.
- Be kind to others.
- Try and love everyone.
- Eat a lot with people.

# LOVE THE 'VILLE LIFESTYLE



One of the main reasons we don't talk more about Jesus is because others seem like they are doing alright.

**Jesus calls him to stay in a place of resistance.**

“Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid....Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them...”

**1. Inauthentic!**

Christianity oppresses your authenticity.

**2. Intolerant!**

Christianity is intolerant of others.

**3. Hypocritical!**

Christian leaders are mostly hypocrites.

**Radical Individualism has a heavy emphasis on:**

- a. Personal Freedom at the expense of Belonging.
- b. Personal Achievement at the expense of Contentment.
- c. Personal Image at the expense of Vulnerability.

Our culture's issues with Christianity  
- **“Inauthentic! Intolerant! Hypocritical!”** -  
are a caricature of humanity at our worst,  
not a vision of Jesus at His best.



### Luke 8:39

Jesus said, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

What has Jesus done for you?

Where is Jesus sending you?

Have you asked Jesus to save you?

## Luke 8:27

“As He stepped out on land,  
a man of the city who had demons met Him.”

Have you asked Jesus to save you?