

Sermon Summary
5th after Pentecost
23rd June 2013

- Western or Northern post-Enlightenment readers often struggle with the miracles.
- The dominant philosophical view, shaped by significant thinkers like David Hume, has left little or no room for miracles or the supernatural.
- Sometimes we are tempted to let the miracles drop from sight as vestiges of an earlier now redundant way of looking at the world.
- It is a great shame if we do this for we lose much that is provocative and challenging
- A Lutheran Scholar working in South Africa, Klaus, Nürnberger, had to address the collision of worldviews as that context includes all that Western modernity offers and traditional religious perspectives which will easily talk of the supernatural.
- He advises that, rather than deal with explanations of how things come to be, supernatural, medical or whatever, in this case, the focus should be on the difference that is made by the actions of Jesus and his followers.
- After all, here we have someone who is in every respect marginalised and cast out by his condition: naked, living in a graveyard, isolated.
- The key question is not: how can this be explained? But, how can his life be improved?
- The dialogue and narrative show the transformation. From naked, silent exile, the man is returned, clothed to his own home and community, to be listened to .
- Our focus, from, this story, should be to ask where do we find those at the margins of our society and what do we, as the Body of Christ, do to assist their healing and re-integration.
- This, after all, is the primary business of Jesus, and should be ours too.

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