

Mark 5:1-20 | *Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man*

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¹ They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

QUESTIONS

1. **Opening Sharing Qn.** Ask one member of your CG to read the passage out loud. What strikes you as you listen to the passage? What is the predominant emotion you feel, and what are some reasons why?

2. Read vv. 1-13. As Jesus casts out the demons from the man, he reveals his total authority over demonic spirits and the forces of darkness. How should we pray in times of difficulty or crisis, knowing that ultimate victory belongs to God?

3. Read vv. 14-20. Why do you think the people were afraid when they saw and heard about what had happened? How have you responded personally when you heard about a miracle that happened to someone you know?

Read vv. 18-20. It is almost surprising that Jesus did not permit the healed demoniac to follow him. How does his response to Jesus contrast with that of the people?

4. Of the three groups of people present, which do you identify with the most right now? Share why is this so.
 - a) The demon-possessed man running to Jesus for healing, and responding in obedience
 - b) The crowds who were afraid, nervous about this cosmic showdown happening in their midst
 - c) The disciples - who had just gotten off the boat with Jesus after he calmed the storm - and yet are completely silent in this passage?

5. **Key Application Question.** We can find ourselves making the mistake of thinking of our struggles as merely personal struggles, not recognizing that we are all fighting spiritual battles.

What are some spiritual battles you find yourself fighting? What are some things you struggle to break free of? Let us pray for one another so that we can run to the feet of our King Jesus, who is the One who heals us and sets us free.