

# SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 17: When Demons Are Tolerated And Jesus is Rejected

## **Mark 5:1-20 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. <sup>3</sup> This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. <sup>4</sup> Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. <sup>7</sup> With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” <sup>8</sup> For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” <sup>10</sup> Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. <sup>11</sup> There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. <sup>12</sup> “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.” <sup>13</sup> So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

## **Two Major Themes:**

### **1) The reality of spiritual warfare.**

#### **a. 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

#### **b. Ephesians 6:12 (NLT)**

<sup>12</sup> For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

#### **c. Colossians 2:15 (NLT)**

<sup>15</sup> In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

#### **d. We need a healthy balance and avoid falling into 2 negative extremes:**

**C.S. Lewis** wrote in the preface to his famous *Screwtape Letters*,

*“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist and magician with the same delight.”*

<sup>14</sup>The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. <sup>15</sup>A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. <sup>16</sup>Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. <sup>17</sup>And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

**2) The contrasting responses to the miracles of Jesus by the crowd and the man who had been delivered.**

**Those resistant to Christ often instinctively respond by saying,**

- 1) Don't disturb my comfort.**
- 2) Don't disturb my stuff.**
- 3) Don't disturb my beliefs.**

<sup>18</sup>As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. <sup>19</sup>But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." <sup>20</sup>So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.