HE BREAKS THE POWER OF CANCELED SIN
Mark 5:1-20

MAIN POINT: There is no one that Jesus cannot _____ no matter how _____ they are.

BACKGROUND AND SETTING

4:1-34 Jesus teaches in Capernaum
4:35-41 Jesus calms the storm

5:1 - *They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes.*

THREE GREAT SPIRITUAL REALITIES

1. The enslaving power of _____ and _____ (vv. 2-5)

v. 2 - *When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him.* (v. 6 - *Seeing Jesus from a distance...*)

The ugly picture of this man's tragic condition	
His external condition	**v. 2b** - *a man from the tombs* **v. 3a** - *he had his dwelling among the tombs* • Luke 8:27 - *a man from the city...not living in a house, but in the tombs*
His internal condition	**v. 2c** - *a man...with an unclean spirit* • unclean spirit = _____ • v. 15 - *the man who had been demon-possessed* • v. 16 - *the demon-possessed man* • v. 18 - *the man who had been demon-possessed*
His hopeless condition	**v. 3b** - *no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain* Greek - not even with a chain, no longer was no one being able to bind him **v. 4a** - *because he had often been bound with shackles and chains.* • (1) Because they thought he was _____ and a danger to _____ o The Jewish Talmud: four tests for madness 1. going out alone at night 2. sleeping in a cemetery 3. tearing one's clothes 4. losing or destroying everything given to him • (2) Because he was _____ and a danger to _____ o Matthew 8:28 - *They were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.* **v. 4b** - *the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue* (Greek: _____) *him.* The point of vv. 3-4: Here is a man for whom there are no _____ remedies Application: It is impossible to restrain evil by _____ means

His spiritual and physical condition	**v. 5a** - *Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains* Luke 8:27 - *[He] had not put on any clothing for a long time* **v. 5b** - *and gashing himself with stones.* • Self-destructive? • Indirect attack on God by attacking God's image-bearer? • Masochistic pleasure? • Engaged in the worship of idols or in the occult? o 1 Kings 18:28 - *they cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until the blood gushed out on them* The point of v. 5: Evil in its very nature is _____ Application: Sin is always _____-destructive

vv. 2-5 is the tragic picture of a condemned, enslaved soul at its absolute worst. There is no control or restraint. There is nothing but Satan and sin dominating this man's life.

Kent Hughes - "He was uncontrollable and dangerous. Inside he was totally wretched. At intervals during the night and day he would let out a preternatural howl, then gash himself with jagged rocks. This poor, naked man was a mass of bleeding lacerations, scabs, infections, and scar tissue, living in a delirium of pain and masochistic pleasure."

The point:

- The condition of all unbelievers is not this extreme, nor are all unbelievers demonized, but this paints a tragic picture of the controlling, enslaving powers of sin and Satan in every life before Christ.

- Our spiritual condition is really no different apart from Christ.

- We are all, apart from Christ, in slavery to sin and to Satan.

    - Ephesians 2:1-3 - *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

    - John 8:28 - *You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.*

    - Psalm 107:10 - *There were those who dwelt in darkness and in the shadow of death, prisoners in misery and chains, because they had rebelled against the words of God, and spurned the counsel of the Most High. Therefore He humbled their heart with labor; they stumbled and there was none to help.*

2. The saving power of _____ (vv. 6-13)

v. 6 - *Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him.*

proskyneō = _____

v. 7 - *and shouting with a loud* (megas) *voice* (phōnē)*, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"*

human identity | divine identity | swear to me by God

Matthew 8:29 - *Have You come here to torment us before the (appointed) time (of judgment)?*

Why did the demons say this?

v. 8 - *For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"*

v. 9 - *And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."*

- On most occasions in the New Testament, those who were demonized were inhabited and controlled by a single demon
- Mark 16:9 - *Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons*
- *Legion* (Latin)
  - A word most often used to describe the Roman legion, which consisted of _____ men
  - A word to describe a very large number

v. 10 - *And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.*

- Luke 8:31 - *They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.*

v. 11-12 - *Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them."*

v. 13 - *Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.*

- Snapshot 1: The demons come out of the man
- Snapshot 2: The demons enter the pigs
- Snapshot 3: The herd rushes down the steep embankment
- Snapshot 4: The herd drowns

The point:

- Jesus freed this man who had been so long enslaved to sin and Satan
- There is no power that is greater than the power of Jesus
- There is no one He cannot subdue
- There are no habits of a lifetime or enslaving patterns of sin that Jesus doesn't have the power to free you from, whether it's
    - anger
    - sex
    - alcohol
    - drugs
    - pornography
    - lying
    - stealing
    - pride
    - selfishness
    - or ?
- Jesus has the power to free anyone, whether it's you or whether it's that person that you so desperately love and about whom you're so desperately concerned

3. The opposing _____ to Jesus (vv. 14-20)

The typical responses of <u>unbelievers</u> (vv. 14-17):

- **v. 14** - *Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened.*
- **v. 15** - *They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon possessed, sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the "legion"; and they became frightened.*
    - The contrasts

Instead of...	**Now...**
Running in and out of the tombs and up and down the mountains, never at rest day or night	Sitting calmly
A naked body covered in dirt and scabs	Clothed
Raging and screaming, cutting himself, and violently attacking everyone near him	In his right mind
A demoniac	A disciple sitting at the feet of Jesus

- **v. 16** - *Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine.*
    - Eyewitnesses: the herdsmen, the 12 disciples. This was a verifiable miracle.

What kind of response do we expect from that kind of miracle?

- The typical response of unbelievers:
  - not _____
  - not _____
  - not _____ to the freed man
  - not pleading with Jesus to stay and help others
  - _____ (v. 15 - *they became frightened*)

- **v. 17** - *And they began to implore Him to leave their religion.*
  - Why? They didn't want Jesus to mess up their _____ and their _____
  - William Hendriksen - "These men were scared of Jesus. Besides, they resented Him. Had He not deprived them of their property? Was He not a disturber of their familiar way of life?"
  - Kent Hughes - "If Jesus stayed it would demand costly changes of them and they didn't want that. He had already ruined their profitable business and they knew that if He stayed there would be other changes He would demand as well."
  - James Edwards - "Such is the response of the human heart to Jesus. Most people, if they were asked, would probably say that they would like to see a manifestation of God. If I said to you, 'Would you like to see Jesus? Would you like for Jesus to come and show up here?' Most people's response would be, 'Oh, that would be great.' But this story is a cold shower for such religious pipedreams. When God manifests Himself in Jesus, most people ask Him to leave. Why? Because the cost of Jesus staying is just much too high."

The response of <u>believers</u> (vv. 18-20):

- **v. 18** - *As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him.* (lit. "Let me be with you.")

- **v. 19** - *And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.*
  - Luke 8:39 - *So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*

- **v. 20** - *And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.*
  - He became the first Gentile missionary to the _____
  - The gospel wasn't just for Israel, it was for _____

LESSONS

1. **The true _____ of Jesus**

- After Jesus calms the storm, the disciples respond:
  - "*Who then is this?*" (Mark 4:41)
  - "*What kind of man is this?*" (Matthew 8:27)
- The answer comes in the very next story from the mouth of Jesus' worst enemy—a demon: "*Jesus, Son of the Most High God*" (Mark 5:7)
- He has more power than an army of demons
- He is Lord of the natural realm (4:35-41) and the supernatural realm (5:1-20) and the physical realm of sickness and death (5:21-43)

2. **Jesus's power to _____ any soul from slavery to sin and Satan**

- It doesn't matter
  - what you have done
  - how bad your case is
  - how long you've been enslaved, or by what
- Jesus has the power to set you free
- If you will come to Him today, He will welcome you and you will find that there are no chains He cannot break. There is no slavery He cannot end. He can change you just as radically as He changed this man and He can do so as He did with this man, in a moment.

3. **The priority of personal _____**

- Jesus grants two requests in this account.
  - He grants the request of the demons to go into the pigs
  - He grants the request of the people of Gadara to leave
- But He refuses this man's request to stay with Him. Why?
  - Because He wants him to spread the gospel
  - This man was an expression of Jesus's grace to that community
- How are you doing with your mission?
- Do the people in your life know what great things Jesus has done for you and how God has had mercy on you?
- Psalm 66:16 - *Come and hear, all who fear God, and I will tell of what He has done for my soul.*

4. **The place of _____ and _____**

- v. 19 **-** *what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.*