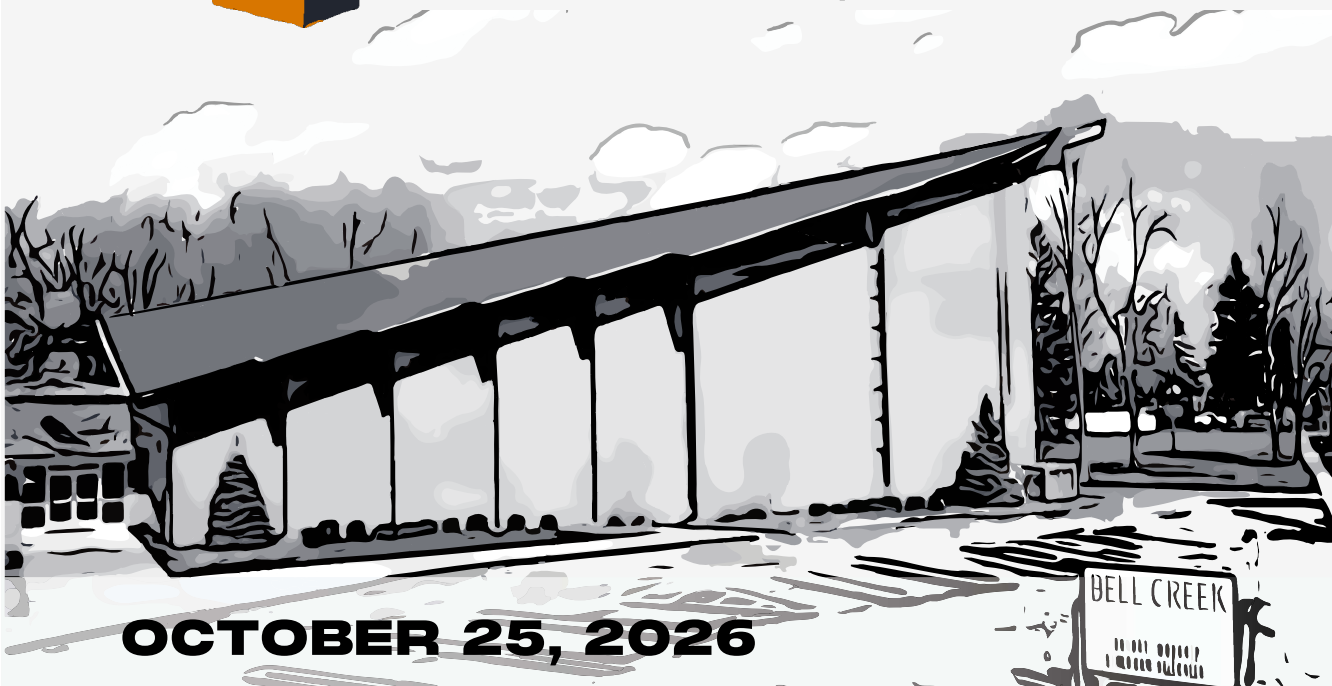


WELCOME TO



BELL CREEK

Community Church



OCTOBER 25, 2026

THE KING FREES THE OPPRESSED
MARK 5:1-20

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES:
WONDERS OF THE KING — THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

THE KING FREES THE OPPRESSED
MARK 5:1–20

Captivity That Could Not Be Broken

Authority That Could Not Be Resisted

Freedom That Must Be Proclaimed

FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Mark 5:21-43.

**DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL
BIBLE READING**

OCTOBER 25: LUKE 10:11; JOHN 10:22-42
OCTOBER 26: LUKE 12:13
OCTOBER 27: LUKE 14:15
OCTOBER 28: LUKE 16:17:10
OCTOBER 29: JOHN 11
OCTOBER 30: LUKE 17:11-18:14
OCTOBER 31: MATTHEW 19; MARK 10

UPCOMING AT THE CREEK

TRUNK OR TREAT & CHILI COOK-OFF

Join us today from 2:00-4:30 PM in the parking lot for our annual Trunk or Treat and Chili Cook-Off. The event is free and will be lots of fun! Hope to see you there!

ETHICS SEMINAR

If you are intested in learning how to apply Scripture to your daily life and think bibically about tough issues, join Pastor Dylan for a seminar about Ethics. Class meets at 11:00 AM in the Prayer Room on Sundays.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Pastor Dylan's Systematic Theology class will begin on Sunday, October 18 from 6:00-7:30 PM in the Prayer Room.

DADCO

Dad Co is a community for dads to build meaningful friendships, share honest advice about parenting and life, and find encouragement through monthly meetups and events. Whether you are a new dad, or your kids are grown, DadCo is a great place to connect and grow together as dads, husbands, and men of faith. Our next gathering will be on Monday, November 2, at 6:30 PM in the Prayer Room. If you have any questions, please email info@bellcreek.org.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Our Young Adult group is for adults 18-30 years old, and will now meet twice a month! Our next gathering is Sunday, November 8, after the second service in the Prayer Room. Join us as we gather and build friendships with other young people in a fun and laid-back environment!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING OUTREACH & DINNER

Save the date for our annual Christmas Caroling Outreach and Dinner on Saturday, December 4 from 4:00-8:00 PM. More details to come!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER MEETINGS

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE

SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SUNDAYS AFTER WORSHIP

2ND SERVICE

AWANA

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE

STUDY

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES
AND EVENTS AT BELLCREEK.ORG

OUR MISSION

MATTHEW 22:37–40

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

MATTHEW 28:19–20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

STAY CONNECTED

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!

WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US

FOLLOW US!



BELL CREEK
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48154

Sermon Series | Wonders of the King – the Miracles of Jesus

Sunday, October 25, 2026 | The King Frees the Oppressed

Mark 5:1-20

Captivity That Could Not Be Broken

“They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.” (Mark 5:1, ESV)

[PHOTO OF HIPPOS]

“The Decapolis was a league of ten large, powerful, prosperous and influential cities during the time of Jesus. Most of these cities are located in what is now modern day Jordan. Jesus fame spread throughout these cities and people from across the Jordan took the long journey to the Galilee to hear him. (Matt 4) But a couple of the major cities were much closer to where Jesus did most of his ministry in the Galilee region—Beit Shean and Hippos Susita. Hippos sits on a high rise as the land lifts up from below sea level at the Sea of Galilee onto the Golan Heights very dramatically. This once bustling city of culture and influence would have been a place where Jesus ministered as it was by far the closest city of the Decapolis to his home of Capernaum along the shores below. (Mark 7)” – Logos Bible Software.

Coming here after the storm must have been puzzling to the disciples, because this is “gentile” territory. Not many Jews live here! This is a land of people who don’t know the Scriptures and worship pagan gods. Unlike the Jewish villages where Jesus taught in synagogues, the wider Decapolis was populated by people accustomed to multiple gods, sacred places, and competing claims to supernatural authority. Jesus is entering a region that to the Jews was “unclean.”

“And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,” (Mark 5:2-3, ESV)

Note that it’s night. It’s dark. They are by a graveyard, and graveyards are “unclean” places. And they meet this man who was oppressed / possessed by an “unclean” spirit, a demon. This might offend our 21st century sensibilities. However, the Scriptures are clear and unapologetic in their assertion that non-human intelligences, spiritual beings, exist. Some, serve the LORD. We call them angels. Some are evil, and are opposed to the LORD and His people; we call them demons. We need to remember that these spiritual beings (good and evil) are created beings. Compared to us they are incredibly powerful, but they are nothing compared to the almighty power of God.

“for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.” (Mark 5:4-5, ESV)

We do not know how this man arrived in this horrible state. We don’t know if he invited this demonic captivity into his life willingly, or was this a consequence of how he lived, or if he was

attacked by evil forces or all the above. But we can see what has happened to him: He's been given a terrifying physical strength, but he has lost his home, he has lost his community, he has lost his family, he has lost his dignity (he was naked), he has lost his mind, he's lost his ability to choose, and he is harming himself. He's living a desolate, desperate existence, plagued by evil he can't overcome.

What's happened to this man is dramatic and disturbing, but isn't this a picture of how sin can bind us? Sin promises freedom but produces slavery. It alienates us from God, destroys relationships, robs us of dignity, corrupts our thinking, and leads us toward self-destruction. And perhaps most tragically, sin holds us captive to a power we cannot overcome by our own strength.

Jesus says in John 8:34, "Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin." Like this man, we need a Deliverer! We need Someone stronger than the powers that holds us captive.

Authority That Could Not Be Resisted

"And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."" (Mark 5:6-7, ESV)

Note that this is the first time Jesus and His followers have been here, yet the evil spirits plaguing this man recognize who Jesus is, and are terrified of Him. They "fell down before Him," and start begging Him not to torment them.

"For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."" (Mark 5:8-9, ESV)

A "legion" was 4000-6000 soldiers. This poor man! No wonder he had such supernatural strength. No wonder he was in such a terrible state!

"And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them."" (Mark 5:10-12, ESV)

In the cities of the Decapolis which contained a lot of Greek and Roman people groups, pigs were a very important food source AND very important in their sacrifices to pagan gods. To Jews, pigs are unclean animals. It says in the book of Isaiah, "a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks; who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;" (Isaiah 65:3-4, ESV) So, Jesus came to an unclean land, to an unclean graveyard, to meet an unclean man, with unclean spirits, and now pigs enter the story!

"So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea." (Mark 5:13, ESV)

Jesus has crossed into “unclean” Gentile territory, where he encounters a man afflicted by unclean spirits, living among unclean tombs, in a region where unclean animals are being raised. But Jesus does not become defiled by approaching the man. Instead, His authority and mercy accomplish the man's deliverance. What's unclean cannot defile Jesus, the King. Praise God, He's not afraid to come to the unclean places, among an unclean people like them (or like us). He is the King who possesses the power to deliver those who are unclean and make them new, and clean, and free, and holy, and full of life, like Him.

Freedom That Must Be Proclaimed

“The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.” (Mark 5:14–15, ESV)

“And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.” (Mark 5:16–17, ESV)

They were afraid of the power of Jesus. They should be. It's a rational response to the might and power of the God of the universe, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. But it's not the BEST response. What is the best response? Look at what happens next...

“As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”” (Mark 5:18–19, ESV)

“And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.” (Mark 5:20, ESV)

Do you recognize something of yourself in this man's desperate condition? We may not be living among tombs or bound by chains, but perhaps there are sins, desires, fears, or habits that have taken hold of your life, and despite your best efforts, you cannot free yourself. Have you considered that the freedom you long for cannot ultimately be found in your own strength? Jesus is the King who came to seek and save the lost, and no power of darkness can resist Him. Will you turn from your sin and come to Him in faith, trusting in His power and mercy to save you?

Maybe you know what it's like to experience loneliness, anguish, and helplessness. Maybe your suffering has continued for so long that you've begun to wonder whether anything will ever change. Do you see how willingly Jesus came into this man's desperate circumstances, when no one else could help him? The Lord Jesus will not forget us when we are suffering, and He is not indifferent to our pain. He has not promised to immediately remove every affliction in our lives, but He has demonstrated that no suffering, no evil, and no darkness is beyond His power. Will you trust Him, believing that even when you can't see all that He's doing, that He is with you, He loves you, and His power is and His mercy will not fail you?

As we consider the extraordinary love and power Jesus showed to this helpless man, we ought to be reminded of the mercy He has shown to all of us! You and I were once captive to sin and unable to deliver ourselves, but Christ came to us and set us free. And like this man, we must tell others how much the Lord has done for us and how He has had mercy on us!