

Mark 5 1-20

Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man

1They went across the lake to the region of the **Gerasenes**. (two cities east of the Sea of Galilee and the River Jordan) **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.

6When 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!**"

There are two things that I find really interesting about this passage as a whole and the first one is this.

This possessed man ran to Jesus, and shouted "What do you want with me Jesus Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!"

This is interesting because in Luke 15, the story of the prodigal son, this same scenario (under different circumstances) happens only its opposite. We find that the father runs to the son who was lost and in shame and bondage. And, really these stories aren't so different in my opinion. Because here we see shame and bondage of this possessed man, and isn't that exactly what the younger son went through in Luke 15 when he finally came to his senses?

The younger son was shameful that he did what he did and then he was also under the bondage of the enemy telling him that what he had left to offer his father wasn't good enough.

And this church is a portrayal of who we are and how the Lord pursues us on a continual basis. When we run God runs to us. And when we find ourselves lost and away and we recognize it. We can turn and run to Christ knowing that he will not cast shame or judgment on us, but rather love and peace in knowing that we are HIS.

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.

Decapolis: Hippius, Damascus, Canatha, Dion, Raphana, Gadara, Pella, Gerasa, and Philadelphia

We are this man. Changed by Jesus and GOING out into our cities and living like Jesus and telling people all that he has done for us!

Jesus has called each and every one of us that are following him to a higher calling and a higher standard than the rest of the world. Not so that we can do what, if we are honest, a lot of Christians have done in the past and that is put on this fake mask that were perfect and have this sort of holier than thou attitude.

That’s not it. The life Jesus has called us to is raw and real full of vulnerability. This standard Jesus set isn’t for us to try and live on our own that is why we need people all around living alongside us in beautiful community. And most importantly the spirit of the living God to help us and guide us along this narrow way. This life that is too hard to do alone.

Mark 7:31-37

Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man

31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the **Decapolis**.^h **32** There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. **33** After he took him aside, away from the **crowd**, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. **34** He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "**Ephphatha!**" (which means "**Be opened!**"). **35** At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. **37** People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

The man that Jesus set free in Mark 5 did what Jesus told him to do! He went back to Decapolis (the ten cities) and told about Jesus. Setting the table for the Lord to do Amazing things for his people. And countless lives were changed for the Kingdom of Christ

There was a crowd of people standing waiting their turn for Jesus to change their life. Because, They were in a place where life didn't work anymore and life didn't make any sense. Revival happened, because one person in one period time told others about the person who changed his life.

We are called to set the table for Jesus to do amazing work. That's what the man in Mark 5 did. He went OUT, and all he did was live for Jesus and tell others about what The Lord did for him. Who are you telling about the Lord?

While you are setting the table around Jesus, Don't forget who you are doing it for and how you are doing it.

Lets pray.