



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: One Week Can Change Everything

Passage: Mark 5:1-20

Speaker: Pastor Dan Preston

Introduction: How many of us can point back to a single week that changed our life forever? Most weeks pass quietly, but every so often one comes that marks a turning point, when life is redirected in a way that is only fully understood in hindsight. Tomorrow, a group of teenagers and sponsors will leave for youth camp with different expectations and hopes, but the possibility remains that this could be one of those defining weeks. Scripture reminds us that God is still in the business of changing lives, and Mark 5 shows us a man whose life was completely transformed by an encounter with Jesus.

I. Nobody is Beyond the Reach of Jesus (Verses 1-5)

What is impossible for man is never impossible for God.

Every person in this room needs Jesus just as desperately as this man did.

If He can change a man possessed by a legion of demons, He can certainly change any life represented here this afternoon.

No matter where you are spiritually, no matter what you are facing, and no matter what has happened in your past, you are not beyond the reach of Jesus Christ.

II. One Encounter with Jesus Can Change Everything (Verses 6-15)



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The world talks about self-improvement. Jesus specializes in life transformation.

Jesus Christ still changes lives. He is still doing things that human effort could never accomplish.

One encounter with Jesus can accomplish more in a moment than years of human effort ever could.

III. God Often Changes Lives When Nobody Expects It (Verses 15-20)

God delights in proving that human impossibilities are divine opportunities.

God sees the finished product. We see what they have been. God sees what they can become through His grace.

It is easy to become discouraged when change does not happen as quickly as you hoped. But this story reminds us that God is still in the business of changing lives.

The same Savior who transformed the demoniac knows exactly where you are and exactly what you need.

IV. Don't Miss What God Wants to Do (Verses 15-20)

Sometimes God begins dealing with a particular area of our life, and we push Him away.

It is entirely possible to sit in church, hear the truth, feel God working in your heart, and still walk away unchanged. The difference between a life-changing week and an ordinary week is often found in the condition of a person's heart.

The tragedy of Mark chapter five is that an entire town saw the power of Jesus and asked Him to leave. The triumph of Mark chapter five is that one man welcomed Him, and his life was never the same.



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One encounter with Jesus can change everything, but only if we are willing to let Him.

Conclusion: This gathering is about more than just camp; it is an opportunity for God to work in hearts and bring lasting change. The hope is that lives will be open to His leading, responsive to His voice, and willing to act on what He reveals. As our teens head to camp, the call is to remain attentive obedient, and ready for God to work in whatever way He chooses. A single encounter with Christ can change everything, and God can do extraordinary things through lives that are fully surrendered to Him.



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