

New City Catechism

As group:

Ask Question 23

Why must the Redeemer be truly God?

Answer Question 23

That because of his divine nature his obedience and suffering would be perfect and effective.

Read: Acts 2:24

Deep Dive:

The redeemer must be truly God because only God possesses the power, holiness, and infinite worth necessary to save sinners. Human beings, being finite and sinful, cannot atone for sin, either their own or anyone else's, because our obedience is always imperfect, and our suffering is limited. But Jesus, as fully God, offered a perfect and sinless life in obedience to the Father, and his suffering on the cross had infinite value because of his divine nature.

Sin is not just a mistake or a weakness; it is rebellion against an infinitely holy God and deserves eternal judgment. Therefore, only a redeemer of infinite worth could bear the full weight of that judgment and satisfy divine justice. If Jesus were not God, his death would have been just another human tragedy. But because he is God, his obedience and suffering are fully sufficient to secure eternal redemption for all who trust in him. His divinity guarantees that nothing is lacking in his work and that salvation is truly complete.

Discuss

Why does sin against an infinite God require an infinite payment?

Main Point

Every person is precious to Jesus, no matter how broken, far gone, or rejected by others they may be. Jesus seeks out the most unlikely and spiritually oppressed individuals, restores them completely, and gives them new purpose. The story this week highlights Jesus' deep

compassion, unmatched power over evil, and his calling to every believer to share what he has done in their lives, even in the very places where they were once most lost.

Read Mark 5:1-20

- 1) What does the condition of the demon-possessed man show us about how deeply people can be hurt and trapped by sin and spiritual darkness?
How do the details in verses 3–5 help us understand just how bad things were for him?
How does this image highlight our own brokenness without the indwelling work of the Spirit?
- 2) Why do you think the people beg Jesus to leave (v.17)?
- 3) Why does Jesus refuse to let the man follow him and instead send him back home (v.19)?
- 4) What does this passage reveal about the overwhelming superiority of Jesus' power compared to the terrifying strength of the demons?
- 5) This story ends with the people being amazed by the man's testimony, not Jesus' miracle (v.20). What does that tell us about the power of personal transformation in witnessing to others?

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 and Ephesians 6:12

- 6) What do these passages teach us about the nature of spiritual warfare?

Application

- 7) Jesus gave the healed man a mission *before* he had formal training or full understanding.
How does that challenge the idea that you need to be "ready" before God can use you?
- 8) If "every person is precious to Jesus," how should that shape our approach to marginalised or difficult people in our communities?
 - a. Who in your life might be someone you've written off too easily?
 - b. What might it look like to see them through Jesus' eyes?

- 1) The condition of the demon-possessed man reveals how devastating the effects of sin and spiritual bondage can be on every part of a person's life. He had lost all control — emotionally, mentally, physically, and relationally. The details in verses 3–5 show a man completely cut off from community, living among the dead, tormented day and night, and engaging in self-harm. He was so far gone that no one could restrain or help him. This is not just a dramatic picture of one man's suffering; it reflects the spiritual condition of every person apart from Christ. Without the Spirit, we are spiritually dead, enslaved to sin, and powerless to free ourselves. This passage reminds us that true healing and restoration can only come through the mercy and authority of Jesus, who enters even the darkest places to rescue and renew.
- 2) The people beg Jesus to leave because his presence disrupted their comfort and economy. The loss of the pigs, a significant financial blow, likely exposed where their hearts truly lay in material security over spiritual awakening. Jesus' power terrified them more than the demon-possessed man ever had. Confronted with divine authority, they chose familiarity over transformation, echoing the human tendency to reject God when he unsettles our priorities.
- 3) Jesus refuses the man's request to follow him because he had a greater mission for him at home. Rather than joining the disciples, this man was called to be a living testimony to the mercy and power of Christ in his own community. His presence among people who once feared him would be a powerful display of the Gospel's transforming power. Jesus sovereignly chooses different paths of service for his followers, and even the newly redeemed are sent as witnesses.
- 4) This passage shows that while the demons were strong, destructive, and many, they were completely subject to Jesus' word. They recognised his authority immediately and begged for permission — they could do nothing without it. Jesus did not struggle or wrestle; he simply spoke. This reminds us that no force of evil can stand against Christ. His power is absolute, and even the darkest spiritual forces must submit to his command. Though we should not ignore the fact that we are in an ongoing spiritual war, we need not fear the forces of evil.
- 5) People's amazement at the man's testimony shows how powerful a transformed life can be in pointing others to Jesus. Though they had just witnessed a dramatic miracle, it was the man's personal story — someone they had known in his brokenness — that struck them most deeply. His visible change gave weight and credibility to the message of Christ. This reminds us that God often chooses to work through ordinary people whose lives have been changed by grace. The man didn't need deep theological knowledge; his story was enough to make others take notice. In the same way, our witness doesn't depend on having

all the answers but on honestly sharing what Jesus has done in our lives. A restored life becomes living evidence of the Gospel — real, human, and hard to ignore.

- 6) These passages reveal that spiritual warfare is not a battle against people, circumstances, or fleshly struggles, but against real and active spiritual forces that stand opposed to God and his truth. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that behind the visible world lies an unseen realm where evil powers seek to blind, deceive, and destroy. But God does not leave his people defenceless. He equips us with spiritual weapons; we have his Word, prayer, righteousness, and faith.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 shows that these weapons are effective for tearing down spiritual strongholds (patterns of false thinking, pride, rebellion, and unbelief.) The call is not to fight in our own strength but to bring every thought into submission to Christ. Spiritual warfare, then, is less about dramatic encounters and more about faithful obedience, daily repentance, and a mind shaped by scripture. It is through God's truth that darkness is exposed and defeated.