

God is bigger than your problems

Mark 5

Pray

As we come to the fifth chapter, we will see three different people

- from different walks of life with different problems & circumstances.
- Yet one thing that they all had in common was that **they all needed Jesus**.
 - Each individual did not have the power nor the resources to help themselves.
 - And they realized that without Jesus, nothing would change.

All of them came to Jesus humbly falling at his feet,

- and all of them having come to Jesus went away transformed.

You may remember from our study last week that Jesus and his disciples

- had just come through a life-threatening storm on the sea of Galilee.
 - The disciples were so fearful, that they thought they were going to die.
 - they had fear because they lacked Faith
 - they got their eyes off of Jesus who was sleeping in the back of the boat
- and I fear that sometimes we do the same we get our eyes off of the Lord
- and we get our eyes onto this storm but when we focus on the Lord
 - there's going to be peace
 - when the disciples had awakened Jesus from his sleep,
- the Bible says he stood up and he rebuked the wind and the waves
- and immediately they ceased.

There was a peace, calm & sense of relief having just survived a near death experience.

- and maybe today you are overwhelmed by a storm your facing
- your being pummeled by a storm, you're facing a hardship a crisis a tragedy
 - and you want it to go away

We must remember Jesus is with you in the storm & will go with you through the storm

- he did not promise us smooth sailing
 - but he did promise us a safe arrival

he said let's go to the other side which meant they were going to get to the other side

- id rather be in a storm with Jesus than anywhere else without him
- But now, as they approach the other side of the sea of Galilee
 - the disciples probably took a sigh of relief.
 - They think there no longer in danger. They're bringing up the boat,
 - they're about to dock it for a time of rest, we made it to land!
 - and suddenly they are approached by a welcome committee that they did not expect.
 - The Bible records that a demon possessed man came running towards them
 - And he was unclothed.
 - This would be alarming! if it was me, I would say, get back in the boat.
 - let's go to the other side. I would be thrown off guard frightened

Now we must remember God is more powerful than whatever problem you're facing

Satan tried to stop Jesus & his disciples on the sea but the lord would not be stopped

- because he had a rescue mission work to do
 - to reach and impact this tormented man's life
 - and high water was not going to stop him
- Jesus had a very specific appointment the disciples didn't know about it
 - and the man that Jesus had an appointment with didn't know about it

1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the ^[a]Gadarenes.

It's exactly what the Lord said would happen, "Let's cross over." And they did!

- They thought they were going under But God is true to his word.

And this is a good reminder that one day we will make it to the other side as well.

- The storms of life will not always be raging all the time.

Shawna always says it might pass like a kidney stone but this too shall pass

Now that they are on the other side, what happened verse two

² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

here's the good news for you and I as believers

- when we've accepted Jesus as our Lord and savior he forgives us of all of our sins

And then he fills us with his holy spirit

- and now we have the spirit of the Living God living dwelling residing inside of us

1 John 4:4 says that you are of God little children and you have overcome them for greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world

- a Christian can't be demon-possessed because b/c the Holy Spirit of God lives in you
 - you are his purchased possession
 - and he's not renting you out to demons
 - There's no room. Somebody else has residency here. You're not coming in.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- they can harass you they can attack you they can trouble you

But as Christians we cannot be possessed by demons

- but we can be oppressed by them

Ephesians 6:16 says Satan's throwing this fiery darts at us

1 Peter 5:8 says he's walking about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour

Ephesians 6:12 we don't wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities powers and spiritual wickedness in high places

Yes the battle is real but praise be to God there is victory through Jesus

1 Corinthians 15:57 says but thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ

Romans 8:37 we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus

James 4:7 says, submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.

- Submit to God in his word and Satan will have to run.

³ who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind ⁴him, not even with chains, ⁴because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

Now this indicates that they had tried to bind him,

- but they were unable to pull this off b/c of the supernatural strength of the demon
 - He was out of control.

What a miserable condition this was as this man was possessed by a demonic spirit.

- Now when you read through the Bible, you will discover that there are passages
 - that refer to demonic spirits which are fallen angels.

the Bible says they have one desire, and that is to destroy the work & people of God.

the Bible says, this man was tormented by these unclean spirits

- and several results are mentioned that are disturbing.

For one thing, it says that he was isolated and he dwelt among the tombs.

- It's the equivalent of the guy lived in a cemetery, that's where he lived.

he lived in isolation. He lived among the dead.

Did you know the Bible says in Ephesians 2:1-3 that before you're a Christian that you are dead in trespasses and sins. You might be very alive physically,

- but spiritually you're flatlined. You're dead in trespasses
 - until Christ raises you from the deadness of your spiritual life
- and makes you ALIVE in Christ that's something the spirit of God does.

So this man, he's isolated & Isolation is not a good thing.

The Bible says in Proverbs 18:1, that a man who isolates himself seeks his own desire and rages against all wisdom. Isolation is not good for you mentally. Physically or spiritually I understand there are times when we get alone with the Lord, That's good

- But we get recharged and go back into fellowship with others!

The devil loves it when you're isolated because he comes in and he brings fear and anxiety,

- And all sorts of bad thoughts.

The devils desire is to seek to kill and destroy.

He was in bondage hurting & inflicting pain upon himself.

- This man was in the worst kind of condition. He was in misery,
 - he felt hopeless and he just wanted to end it all.

I want to say to you today that if for some reason in this season that's where you are

- & u have isolated yourself & these kind of thoughts are running through your mind
 - I want you to know Those thoughts aren't from the Lord Jesus.

He came to give you life more abundantly, he loves you. He can deliver you.

- He doesn't want you to hurt yourself or harm yourself. That's the enemy.

And today we see young people, cutting themselves and the devil is behind that.

- He likes to destroy people's lives, and that's what he was doing with this man.

What a tragic, hopeless condition he was in until he came into contact with Jesus

- Here's where it gets good.

6 When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.

The word Worship here is a Very strong word in Greek—means to bow down

- and to recognize as one being greater than one's self,

7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."

First of all, the demon knew who Jesus was. He even confessed his deity.

- Why is that important to understand?

the Bible says in **James 2:19**, **even the demons believe and they tremble.**

- It's not enough to have demonic faith. People say I believe in Jesus.
 - So do the demons.

Many Americans identified themselves as Christians, as they believe in God

- but their lifestyle shows they are not following Jesus.

The evidence of a true Christian is a changed life.

there are many people that believe all the right things,

- but it has not affected the way that they live.

2 Corinthians 5:17 **if anyone is in Christ. He's a new creature, old things are passed away.**

Behold all things become new. the reason why Satan can believe that Jesus is God,

- but he will not go to heaven,
 - is his belief has not affected his behavior = He is not a follower of Jesus!
 - He knows the truth but rejects it in the way he lives!
 - He is rebelling against God & does not have Jesus as his Lord

8 For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" 9 Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

A Roman legion is approximately 6,000 men.

- That doesn't necessarily mean that this is an exact count of the demons.

- Because demons are liars and I think their trying to intimidate Jesus
 - now it's obvious that there were many demons in the man
- but we don't know the exact number

¹⁰ Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

¹¹ Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. ¹² So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."

I guess demons like bacon

¹³ And ¹⁴at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

the demons made the pigs destroy themselves

- and that's what they wanted to do w/ that man all along
 - and that's where they would have led him eventually

Here is **the first case of deviled ham** in the scriptures!

Question: Why did Jesus give them their request?

- According to Jewish law pigs are the most unkosher thing you can raise. And as a Jewish nation if there are Jews that are raising these pigs,
 - it's an illegal business, they shouldn't be doing it. It was forbidden!!!

So Jesus is killing 2 birds with one stone as He's delivering a man from demons

- and he's going to put an end to an illegal business.
 - So he said, "Sure," and he let them go into the pigs. "

Now demons & Satan operate by permission.

- They're powerful, but not all-powerful. Their power is limited

In, **Luke 22:31-32** Jesus said " **to Simon Peter, "Satan has asking for you that he might destroy you and sift you like wheat. But I prayed for you. And when you are recovered, strengthen your brothers."**

- So evidently there was a conversation between Satan and Jesus about Peter.
 - Satan had his eyes on Peter but Jesus, was keeping Peter by his power.
 - Satan's desire in his life was to destroy, and to sift him.

And certainly Peter did struggle and denied the Lord, but he was recovered,

- he was brought back, and he did strengthen his brothers.

Reminds me of the story of Job as Satan had to ask permission to mess with him

Another characteristic of Satan is destruction,

In **John 10:10** Jesus said, **I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly,**

- **but the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy.**
 - Satan wants to destroy its his destructive nature.

¹⁴ So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

Another characteristic of demon activity is insanity and nudity.

- Verse 15 says that when the demons were cast out, He was clothed
 - and in his right mind.

Now, I am not saying that everyone who likes to be nude is insane or demon possessed

- but what I am saying is that there is an association that demons have with nudity
 - and insanity. Why is that?

2 Timothy 1:7 says, **God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.** So if God didn't give us a spirit of fear, then who did? The enemy!

- God gives us a sound mind.

I love how it says This man was now clothed.

This is why I believe that Satan is behind the whole pornography industry.

- When he gets people caught up in porn, it destroys families & marriages,

Satan loves to get a hold of peoples minds. Why? Because if you can get a person's mind,

- you can get his whole body. There is truly a battle for our minds
 - & that's where the enemy attacks us most
 - & why we need to take every thought captive!
- And I can't help but think what kind of freedom this man must have experienced
 - in that moment that he was delivered as He could never sit still.
- Yet now he was clothed in his right mind. And I love this picture.
 - He's just sitting at the feet of Jesus, a completely different man.
- this man was so changed you could not even tell he was the same guy

Daryl strawberry the bad boy of baseball got himself into a lot of trouble

- and now he's preaching the gospel all around the country
 - From ball field to pulpit = that's what god can do!

Brian Head Weltch KORN'

Alice Cooper is a full-blown follower of Jesus

- before Jesus he was a mess but after Jesus he was in his right mind and what a picture that paints because apart from Jesus Christ we're a mess

This man had found a peace that society could not provide for him

- And you would assume that everyone in that community would've been so thrilled
 - over the fact that this man who had been terrorizing the neighborhood
 - had suddenly been healed and delivered.
 - But at their response...

¹⁶ And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. ¹⁷ Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

It turns out that they were more concerned about their pigs than they were about people.

- Your messing with my money. **Those pigs are bringing me home a lot of bacon!** they cared more about the possessions of the world than people in the world
- How tragic. Here this man is completely whole. He's delivered. He's brand new, and this word pleaded. They begged, Jesus, please leave. Please don't stay here.
- They strongly urged him to leave.

And this reminds me how some people like to chase Jesus away

- when he's pointing out something unclean in our life, something that we're doing
 - and we like to chase him away, saying, I don't want to change
 - I don't want you to teach me about that sort of stuff,
- I'm going to go somewhere else where I don't have to hear that sort of stuff.
 - And we chase Jesus out of certain areas of our lives
 - when he's pointing something out that we're doing that is illegal
 - and something that is unclean

Jesus, don't mess with that area of my life, leave it alone

jesus was bad for their business as they were bringing home a lot of bacon
but if Jesus is bad for your business I would say get a new business

- if Jesus doesn't fit in your life right now then change what you're doing
 - because we should be able to invite the lord into everything that we do
 - and ask him to bless it

What "pigs" in our life need to be killed?

- What nasty habits are you holding onto in your life?

Jesus Not So Close you're kind of touching on a sensitive area there

- Jesus can you back away a few steps
please you're invading my personal space
- but if you want me to back away Jesus will often honor that request

And Jesus would not stay where he was not welcome. And so as he prepared to move on,

- he was getting ready to get back into the boat. But look at verse 18, ¹⁸ And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. I love this. He said, Lord, let me come with you,

- a person who is truly converted, somebody who is radically saved.
 - They want to be with Jesus. That is the byproduct.

It's not like, thanks Jesus. See you later. No, they want to be with Jesus wherever he is.

- Lord, wherever you're going and where your people are, I want to be with you.

It reminds me of **ruth 1:16** "Entreat^{me} me not to leave you,
Or to turn back from following after you;

For wherever you go, I will go;
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;
Your people *shall be* my people,
And your God, my God.

Now notice that word, begged has been used 3 times in this entire chapter!

- The demons "begged" Jesus, the pig owners "begged" Jesus to leave,
 - now the previously demon-possessed man "begged" him.
- And I love how He just wants to be with Jesus!!!

When I was first saved, I couldn't get enough of going to church and Bible study and prayer

- I just wanted to be around the Lord and around God's people; I couldn't get enough.

That's the natural byproduct to follow Jesus to be with Jesus not to let him out of your sight

¹⁹ However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

the fact that Jesus says go home implies he wasn't always demon possessed.

- Something happened to him that brought him to this condition,
 - and now he's returning home as a changed man

And Jesus told him to tell everybody what he has done in his life

- and the compassion that the Lord had on him. **that's our testimony.**

If we tell others the great things that God has done for you

- and the compassion that he show you, That is your personal testimony
 - and it's powerful. Don't underestimate it. who can deny that?

Sometimes we underestimate our testimony.

- you have a powerful testimony If Jesus saved you,
 - your testimony is what Jesus has done.

What great things has he done in your life that you can tell somebody?

- What compassion has Jesus shown to you?

I could stand here all day and tell you of all the great things, that God has done in my life,

- and if anything good has come in my life, it is because of God. That's my testimony.

God want us to share our testimony with others!

²⁰ And he departed and began to proclaim in [G]Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled. that's a sermon every one of us should be able to preach

- what has Jesus done for you? how has he changed your life ?
 - what has he done in your life that you can tell others about

This guy didn't just go to his house, he started there, but then went to the Decapolis

- Which is made up of 10 cities = **show map** Deca in the Greek means 10
 - Polis is the Greek word for city. Decapolis is a ring of about ten cities
 - This guy was on a gospel tour 4 Jesus.
- When you really think about it, this is like the first missionary.

God uses unlikely people to do crazy things for his glory,

one of the most effective powerful tools you have in your evangelistic toolbox is your story

- of how you came to christ
 - of who you were before & After

This story of this man shows how much god loves lost people

- Jesus went out of his way to reach this guy

it reminds me of the story Jesus told of a shepherd who had 100 sheep

- and one went astray and he left the 99 and searched for that lost lamb
 - until he found it and wrapped it around his neck and came home rejoicing

and then Jesus said in **Luke 15:7** that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine ^ajust persons who need no repentance.

this is a reminder for us that no one is beyond the reach of god

- keep praying for them
 - and you never know when things could turn around

there might be someone today who has an addiction they can't break free from

- they have a guilt they can't get rid of, you have a hopelessness you can't shake
 - and you need the help of Jesus, so what did this man do?

he called out to Jesus and the bible says in **Romans 10:13** whoever will call upon the name of the lord will be saved

god is bigger than your problems so call out to him today

Share Gospel

Pray