

Discussion Guide (September 3, 2023)

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Message: *From A Mess To A Messenger*

PRIMARY PASSAGE: Mark 5:1-20 (ESV)

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 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. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills, he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil 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. Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 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. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 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.

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHT

There is no life that is too broken such that Christ cannot fix, and there is no situation that is so hopeless such that He cannot redeem. He is never put off by the messiness of what Satan has done in our lives. Instead, He faces the mess, transforms our lives completely, and gives us a story of hope we can share with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think a legion of demons took over the life of this one man and unleashed such havoc on it?
2. In what ways is Satan still making a mess of people's lives today? List the top five you can think of.
3. Based on verse 19, why do you think Jesus delivered the demon-possessed man and what does that tell us about the nature of God and His plans?
4. What does it mean to be a messenger of Jesus? What steps can you take, or have you taken, to function well in that role?

Dear Lord, we pray that You will keep evil far from us and heal the brokenness in our lives so that our stories will bring You glory—in Jesus's name. Amen!