

Confronting Evil

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: When you think of facing evil, what comes to mind?

Q: Have you ever had a personal experience with someone who you believed was under the influence of the devil?

NOTE: The word we translate "demon-possessed" is from the Greek word that means "to be demonized" or "to have a demon" or "unclean spirit". It has the sense of being oppressed by a demon or to be attacked by a demon or in this case to be inhabited and controlled by a demon.

Table Time....

READ: Mark 5:1-5 "They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones"

Q: How does Mark describe this poor man?

Q: Where did this man "live"? How is that consistent with the demonic and the devil?

Q: How do we see this same thing in our world and culture today?

READ: Mark 5:6- 8 "And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

Q: Why does this demon possessed man "fall down before Jesus"?

Q: How does that relate to this? Philippians 2:10-11 "so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Q: In verse 7, the demon speaks in a way that doesn't tell the whole story! What does this teach us about the devil?

Q: What's ironic about the "appeal" of the demon to Jesus?

READ: Mark 5:9- 13 "And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them

out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea."

Q: Notice the "name". What's important about our "name"? What does the name "represent"?

Q: Why do you think the demons beg not to be sent "out of the country"?

Q: What does the presence of a large heard of "unclean animals" indicate about the region where this is taking place?

Q: So, Jesus sends an "unclean legion" into "unclean animals". Then the animals can't stand that and they do what? What's the connection with this and the last part of chapter 4 when the disciples are in the boat and almost sink and Jesus brings peace?

Big Group Debrief...

READ: Mark 5: 14-20 "The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled."

Q: What's sad/interesting about the people's reaction? Why?

Q: Jesus gets in the boat to lave (as requested). What does THIS indicate (and is scary)?

Q: Even though the people want Jesus to leave, Jesus doesn't leave them alone! He sends a missionary! Who and how and WHY?

To Think More About:

Q: In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus and the disciples face a storm on the sea of Galilee at night. How might a situation like this, spiritually remind the disciples of Genesis 1:2?

Q: Does this situation, remind you of any other book of the Bible? (Hint: reluctant prophet, big fish, gentile city). What are the similarities? What are the differences?