



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What aspect of the King/Kingdom are you struggling to perceive right now?
2. How does knowing the gospel of Mark was written to followers of the Way of Jesus change how you read the book?
3. The enemy loves to wreak havoc through offense, unforgiveness, and inputs. How easily offended are you? How easy is it for you to forgive? What holds you back from following the mandate to forgive? Who do you need to forgive? What are you allowing to come into your life - visually, emotionally, relationally, socially?
4. In what area of your life do you need to set aside fear and just believe? What does that practically look like?
5. See the final slide. Which statement about Jesus do you need for your life this week? Invite someone to pray into that with you and for you!

So goes the leader, so goes the culture. So goes the culture, so goes the company.

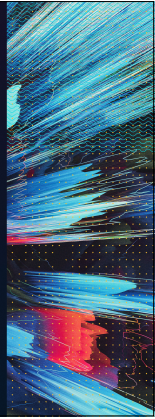
— Simon Sinek

“Mark challenges its audiences since the disciples stand in for churches that hear it. It confronts us with our failures to listen to Jesus, to attend carefully to Jesus’s teaching, to his constant upending of social norms, to the radically alternative character of the kingdom of God, and especially to the completely different sort of ruler Jesus is. Audiences that claim a Christian identity but have grown complacent and have accommodated to social patterns of their surrounding culture will be brought up short and confronted by Mark’s portrayal, because it is anything but comforting.”

— Timothy Gombis, Mark (The Story of God Bible Commentary)

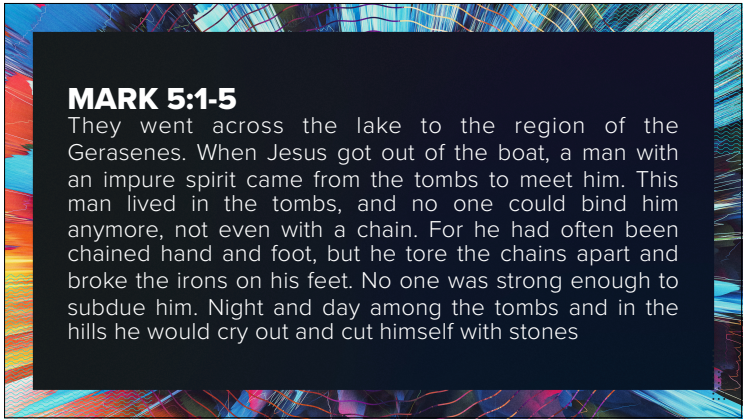
"Mark's purpose is not so much to proclaim the gospel as to remind Christians of the true character of the gospel, calling readers and audiences back to the reality of the gospel they had received. Mark's intended audiences, therefore, are churches that have received the gospel and envision themselves as participants in the kingdom of God, but they have grown complacent and are failing to embody and inhabit the kingdom of God according to its radically cross-shaped character."

— Timothy Gombis, Mark (The Story of God Bible Commentary)



MARK 5:1-5

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure 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

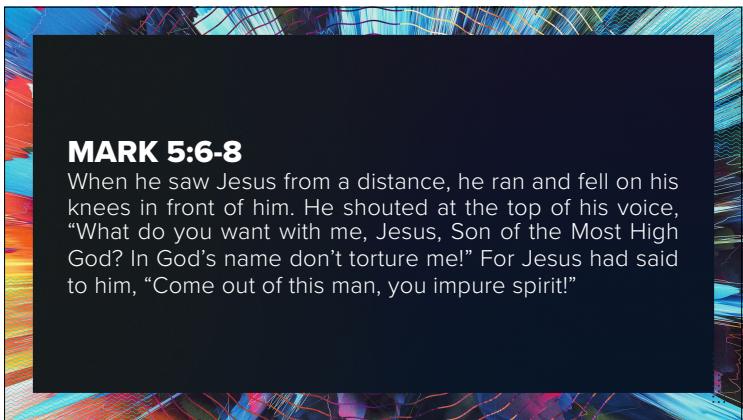



JESUS' HUMILITY IS BOLDER



MARK 5:6-8

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? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"





JESUS' AUTHORITY IS HIGHER



MARK 5:9,10

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.



MARK 5:11-13

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 impure 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.

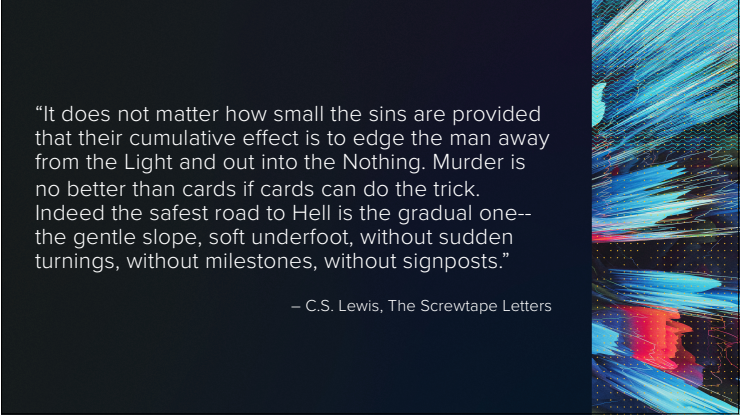


JESUS' POWER IS GREATER



MARK 5:14-17

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.



“It does not matter how small the sins are provided that their cumulative effect is to edge the man away from the Light and out into the Nothing. Murder is no better than cards if cards can do the trick. Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one-- the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”

— C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters

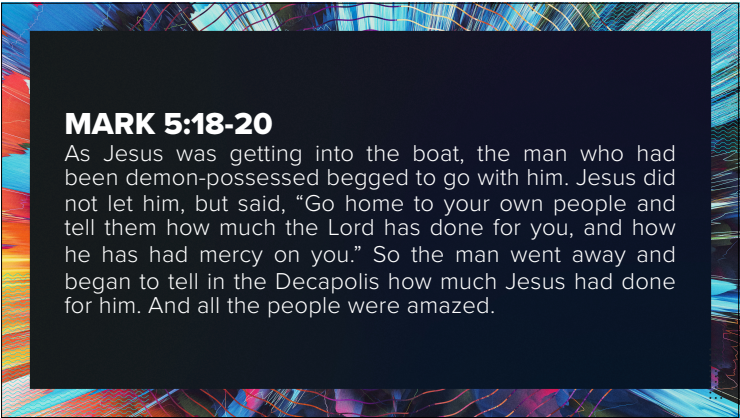


Working theory of the devil's strategy: deceitful ideas that play to disordered desires that are normalized in a sinful society.

Working theory of spiritual formation: It's by spirit and truth that we are transformed into the image of Jesus and set free to live in line with all that is good, beautiful and true. It's by isolation and lies that we are deformed into the image of the devil and enslaved in a vicious cycle of disorder and death.

Working theory of the law of returns applied to spiritual formation: sow a thought, reap an action; sow action, reap another action; sow some actions, reap a habit; sow a habit, reap a character; sow a character, reap a destiny, either in slavery to the flesh or freedom in the Spirit.

— John Mark Comer, Live No Lies



MARK 5:18-20

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 own people 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.



JESUS' COMPASSION IS DEEPER



MARK 5:21-24

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." So Jesus went with him.



MARK 5:24-29

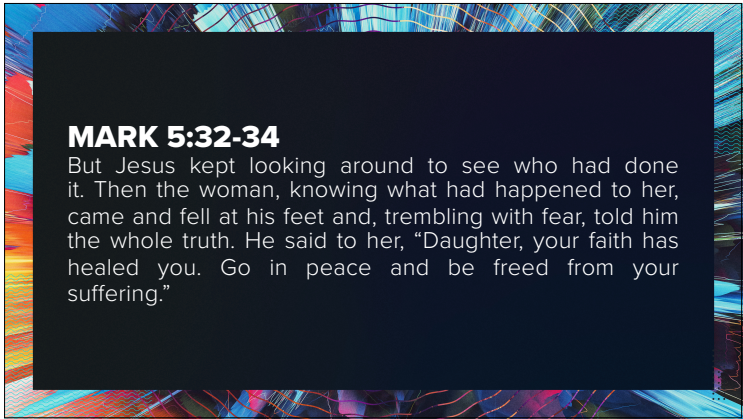
A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

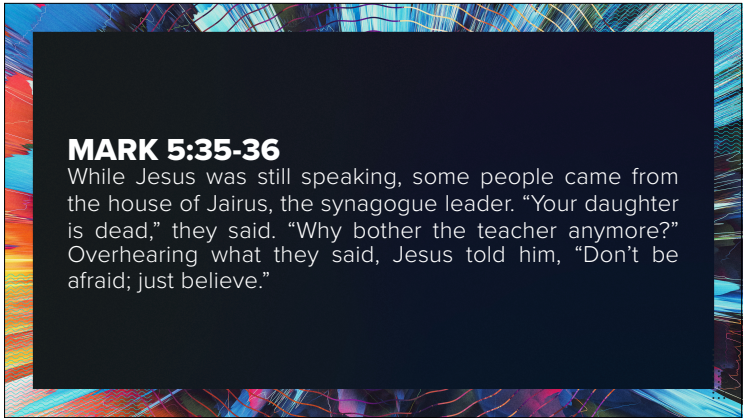


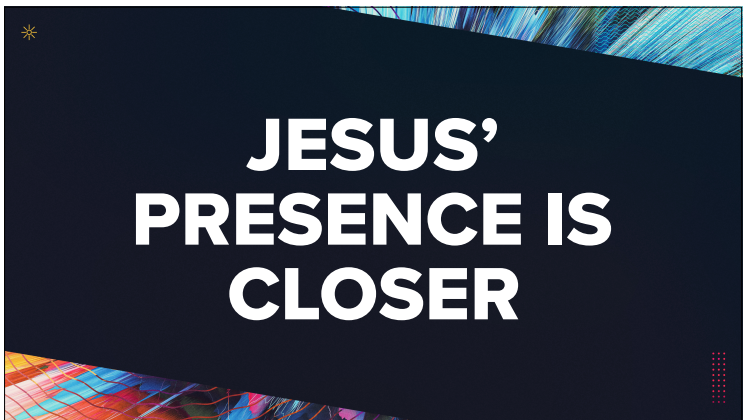
MARK 5:30-31

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"









MARK 5:37-40

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

MARK 5:40-43

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

**JESUS OVER
EVERYTHING**

**DO YOU SEE?
DO YOU PERCEIVE?**

