

Pastor Dustin Daniels | River Bible Church

Mark 5:1-13 | Jesus, Demons And The Beggars: Part One

(20) October 11, 2020

REVIEW & INTRODUCTION:

Last week the Holy Spirit taught us what it looks like to have faith in Jesus, among terrifying fear.

The disciples were in a small boat on the Sea of Galilee during a hurricane.

And they're acting and responding to the threat of drowning and dying just like you and I would.

They feared with a mega fear.

While all this was going on, Jesus is sleeping on a pillow in the back of the boat.

They wake up Jesus. And Jesus calms the sea with a peculiar phrase—"Be muzzled."

Nature instantly obeys.

We also learned the cause of the storm.

This wasn't just a regular storm that the disciples have seen over their years as professional fishermen.

This storm was created by the demonic for the sole purpose of drowning everybody on board.

Why? To prevent the gospel from being spread to the rest of the world.

^{ended}
We ~~concluded~~ last week's sermon with a few key points.

+ 1. The disciples knew of Jesus, but it was in the storm where they experienced Him.

+ 2. Jesus doesn't deliver us from storms— but through the storms.

We also learned ^A some valuable lessons for us corporately as a Church.

+ 3. The local church is a rescue boat or a battleship. It is not a cruise ship.

The Church is a rescue boat. We are a spiritual battleship.

The Church is not a cruise ship where members can do whatever they want.

Because the mission of every local church is called the Great Commission.

+ **Mark 16:15 CSB**— Then Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

+ We could translate that verse this way, "As you go, as you move, as you work, as you retire into the Verde Valley share the gospel."

Now, if you thought last week's Scripture passage was intense, the next two weeks are even more so.

I had to break this narrative into two parts.

This week, we turn to one of the most disturbing ^{stories} narratives in all of Scripture.

Today's topics and the main points pulled from Scripture are items that make many of dreadfully uncomfortable.

Satan, demons and the kingdom of darkness. Theologically its called demonology.

It's going to take me a few minutes to get this set up, so stay with me.

Picking up from last week...

The disciples learned first hand that the only thing more terrifying than a hurricane outside the boat is having Jesus in the boat.

In today's lesson, we're going to learn very quickly that the prince of darkness who conjured up the storm to try and drown everyone on the boat is not done yet.

The disciples may have thought that Jesus wanted to go to the "other side" to get away from the crowds to get some rest.

Today, we see that this trip is not for rest.

The disciples are ^{SN} paddling a rescue boat because this is a rescue mission.

Pause...let me ask you this...

Why did Jesus step down off his throne in Heaven and come into this world?

+ **John 3:16 ESV**—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

+ **John 3:17 ESV**—For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

That's the gospel in two verses.

It's kind of a trick question. There are many!

But I want to focus on two reasons as we ^{to why Jesus came to Earth.} get started.

+ **cf. Mark 1:38 CSB**—And Jesus said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come."

the gospel

+ cf. 1 John 3:8 ESV— The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

So the reason that Jesus came from Heaven to Earth is to preach the gospel and destroy wickedness.

What works is the Apostle John referring to?

"The Fall of Mankind" in Genesis chapter 3.

~~Let me give you quick review~~

Adam and Eve sinned in paradise.

They specifically chose to eat from a tree that the Lord God Almighty told them not to eat from. (Gen 2:16)

Note here when we choose to sin, we choose to suffer.

There are always consequences to sin.

Sometimes they show up quickly; sometimes they don't.

Consequences showed up hours later for Adam and Eve.

One of the many consequences that we see from their sin, is in Gen. 3:15.

This verse provides the background to today's lesson.

Genesis 3:15 is called the protoevangelium— or the first gospel.

God is speaking directly to Satan.

cf. Genesis 3:15 NCV—I will make you and the woman

enemies to each other.

Your descendants and her descendants

will be enemies.

One of her descendants will crush your head,

and you will bite his heel."

The GNB also translates this verse with a more vivid picture,

Jesus "He will crush your head, and you will bruise Satan his heel." Satan Jesus

In other words, Jesus will crush Satan's head with terrible violence.

Satan can only deliver a *sharp, nonfatal blow to Jesus*.

So, all the way back starting in Genesis 3, we learn of a Savior and God's plan of redemption for our sin.

cf. Romans 16:20 CSB—The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

That promise was ultimately fulfilled on the cross.

Now today's Scripture is visible, undeniable proof that Jesus crushed Satan's head.

For the first time, the Gospels provide a detailed description

1. How a demonized person treats humanity

2. How a demonized person responds to Jesus.

Demons hate humans because they're made in the image of God

Scripture confirms

Okay, with that background...

****PLEASE STAND for the reading of God's Word****

SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:1-20

- + **Mark 5:1 CSB**— They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.
- + **Mark 5:2 CSB**—As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met Jesus.
- + **Mark 5:3 CSB**—He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain—
- + **Mark 5:4 CSB**—because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.
- + **Mark 5:5 CSB**—Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.
- + **Mark 5:6 CSB**—When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him.
- + **Mark 5:7 CSB**—And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don't torment me!"
- + **Mark 5:8 CSB**—For Jesus had told him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"
- + **Mark 5:9 CSB**—"What is your name?" Jesus asked him. "My name is Legion," he answered him, "because we are many."

+ **Mark 5:10 CSB**— And he begged Jesus earnestly not to send them out of the region.

+ **Mark 5:11 CSB**— A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside.

+ **Mark 5:12 CSB**— The demons begged Jesus, "Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them."

+ **Mark 5:13 CSB**— So Jesus gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

+ **Mark 5:14 CSB**— The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened.

+ **Mark 5:15 CSB**— They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

+ **Mark 5:16 CSB**— Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs.

+ **Mark 5:17 CSB**— Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their region.

+ **Mark 5:18 CSB**— As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him.

+ **Mark 5:19 CSB**— Jesus did not let him but told him, "Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."

+ **Mark 5:20 CSB**— So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

+ **PRAY:**
Amen. Please be seated.

+ **EXEGESIS:**
+ **Mark 5:1 CSB**— They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.

In the Jewish mindset, it was understood that the "other side" was in opposition to "our side."

The "other side" are those folks who aren't like us. They're different and scary.

Maybe as you were growing up, your parents told you not to cross over into a specific area of town.

I remember driving around Chicago as an 18-year-old kid.

I pulled into a gas station, wanting to get fuel, and all of a sudden this older slender black man came up to me and said, "Son, you're not from around here, are ya?" I'm suggesting you get back in your car right now and don't stop until you get to the highway."


"The other side" was the same way for the Jews. This is a place where no Jew would want to go for any reason.

And yet, remember from last week, Jesus is the one who said, "Let's cross over to the "other side."

"to the region of the Gerasenes."— Both Mark and Luke note that this event occurred in the country of the Gerasenes.

Matthew, on the other hand, says it was in a place called the GADarenes.

The OT book of Joshua tells us that this is the area that the tribe of Gad settled into.

So which is it? Is this a contradiction in Scripture? 

Where did this event take place?

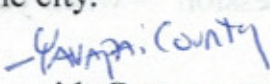
This area is simply known as "Ten Cities—The Decapolis."

These are Greek cities.

Gadara was both a city and a region.

Similar to how New York is both a city and a state.

Gerasa was the wider geographical area, and Gadara was the city.

It would be like comparing and contrasting the Verde Valley with Cottonwood. 

So there is no discrepancy or contradiction.

Mark 5:2 CSB—As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him.

No sooner had they reached the shore and trying to dock the boat, a raging lunatic comes racing down to terrify Jesus and the disciples.

The gospel of Matthew says that there were actually two lunatics.

Which is it? one or two? ^{Is this} ^{? Is this}
 Once again, ~~this is~~ not a contradiction. ~~This is~~ not a typo.

Keep in mind that the gospel writers each have a different audience and theme.

Matthew is providing a broader context for his audience which are Jewish Christians,

while Mark and Luke chose to focus on the main character.

I do find it interesting that Scripture says that Jesus is the one that got out of the boat, not the disciples.

Regardless, from the very start, we see that this man is in a desperate condition.

^{- Another name for "demon"}
"Unclean Spirit"— Demon possessed people are under the control of one or more demons.

Demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in his rebellion against God and are now evil spirits under Satan's control. (See Revelation 12:7).

"Possession"—when you possess something you own it. You have control of it.

It's the same concept here.

When Scripture speaks of demon possession, it speaks of a person being indwelt, controlled and tormented by a rational demonic being.

We'll see all three of these things with this man.

Luke 8 tells us that he is also naked.

This one detail tells us about the amount of perversion this man is involved in.

There is also tremendous shame involved in public nudity.

Remember the incident in the book of Acts with a priest named Sceva.

Sceva and his sons are trying to cast out demons...

The demon said, I know Jesus, and I recognize Paul—but who are you? Then he jumped on Sceva and his seven sons, beat them to a pulp, stripped them naked, and then sent them home to mamma. (Acts 19:15) *the story!* ~~the~~ *the demon shared them w/ nudity.*

Now From a Biblical perspective, nudity outside the covenant of marriage between one biological man and one biological woman is sexual perversion. *+*

Public nudity is indecent and shameful.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they covered themselves with fig leaves.

When the Lord saw this, it was not modest enough for mankind.

sheds blood So the Lord, kills an animal, most likely a lamb, to make skins for them. *Adam & Eve*

It's an amazing picture of the Lord Jesus being the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Secondly, this man's nakedness also reveals physical torment.

He is constantly exposed to the natural elements. *-Extreme heat & chilling cold of Israel.*

The demons are preventing this man from protecting his body.

They are torturing this man.

+ **Mark 5:3 CSB**—He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain—

Graveyards were often carved out of the hillside in the first century.

Many such tombs have been discovered near modern-day Khersa in Israel.

So not only is this man a deranged lunatic, drenched in perversion, but he's also outcast. *He's more comfortable among the Jews.*

He is supernaturally strong.

Don't underestimate this. This man is violent.

+ *cf. Matthew 8:28 CSB*—They were so violent that no one could pass that way.

You don't cross this guy. If he sees you, you start running for your life.

Make no doubt about it; he will kill you.

+ *Mark 5:4 CSB*—because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. **No one** was strong enough to subdue him. *X3*

What do we do with someone who acts this way today?

We put them in handcuffs.

The shackles mentioned here some type of ankle chains.

But this man smashes the shackles with stones or by slamming them against rocks on the ground.

He broke these handcuffs into pieces.

^{scripture traps}
 In verse four, the picture is that this man is acting more like a wild animal than a person.

A better translation would be, "no one was able to tame him."

Wait, people don't tame human beings. Something is very wrong.

Human being tame animals.

This man is acting like a wild animal, so people are treating him like one.

This man needs to be tranquilized, put in a straight jacket, and placed in a padded room.

This man needs to be medicated.

This guy is Charles Manson, Jeffrey Dahmer, Timothy McVeigh, Joseph Stalin and Adolph Hitler in one man.

+ **Mark 5:5 CSB**—Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

This story gets worse!

This man is not only a deranged lunatic, immersed in all sorts of sexual perversion, an outcast, supernaturally strong, and extremely violent...

He's also restless and suicidal. ^{he's cutting his wrists with sharp stones,}

The continual wailing, screaming, and crying out is undoubtedly the result of a pain that we wouldn't dare to fathom.

He can't stay in one place; he's constantly moving and running back and forth, trying to cope with his life.

his wrists sharp
Cutting himself with stones — He's repeatedly trying to take his life.

Why?

Why does anyone have a suicidal thought?

To stop the pain.

Suicidal people have no hope that life will ever get better.

He wants to kill himself to end his unbearable existence.

He has no one who loves him and no one to love.

But Jesus is a mission

Mark 5:6 CSB—When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him.

the demons
This guy sees a boat trying to dock on the shore, and he thinks he has new victims.

they they have

If you have a KJV or an NKJV, they translate this verse, "he worshipped him."

That's a poor translation. This man is not worshipping.

It was an act of respect, yes, but it was not worship.

This reverence was not motivated by repentance because demons cannot repent.

This demon-possessed man shows respect because he must.

The man doesn't know who Jesus is, but the demons indwelling him sure do.

Notice here now; there is no need for chains, shackles, or handcuffs.

V.4 said "no one could restrain ~~him~~"

Jesus restrained this man by His very presence.

It is the terror of a holy God that subdues this man—not man made chains.

The demons know that their Judge stands before them.

The man is bowing because the demons are bowing.

+ Mark 5:7 CSB—And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don't torment me!"

—me? defiance

This man screams before he began to speak to Jesus.

The demons fear of Jesus overwhelms their ability to hide within the man.

~~It was this scream which proved to everyone that a demon-possessed him.~~

We see here that the demons are admitting by their posture, but not their attitude, that Jesus is not their Sovereign Lord, but their Sovereign Judge. —They Are Accountable to Him.

And then the demons continue to rage at Jesus...

What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God is a paraphrase from the demon that Jesus cast out in Mark 1:24.

It's a statement of fact

This is not a statement of faith from the demons, ~~but~~ of fact.

What does this tell us?

Let me ask it this way, aside from Jesus, who is the best theologian the world has ever known?

Answer: Satan. If you are the best deceiver of the truth, you have to know the truth better than anyone else.

It tells us that demons have sound theology. They know the truth; they just hate it.

Isn't it interesting that the demon's declaration of **Jesus as Son of the Most High God** answered the disciples' question last week?

+ cf. **Mark 4:41 CSB**— "Who then is this?"

next morning..

The disciple's answer came from a demon. Not a human.

In fact, the first human who identifies Jesus as the Son of God in Mark's gospel is one of the Gentile Roman Soldiers who helped crucify Him. (Mark 15:39)

Back to verse 7.

+ **Mark 5:7 CSB**—... I beg you before God, don't torment me!

Notice how many times the word, "beg" is used in this story.

The demons request is ludicrous for two reasons.

- 1) He's asking Jesus to make a promise in the name of God the Father.
'Swear to God that you won't torture me!'

The demon is begging and groveling for ~~his~~ their lives.

- 2) He's asking Jesus not to torture her... even though the demon has been torturing this man.

Question: Why did the demon think Jesus would torture him?

The gospel of Matthew gives us a clue.

Demons Ask Jesus ...

+ cf. **Matthew 8:29 CSB**—Have you come here to torment us before the time?"

This question is key to all the drama that happens next.

The demons clearly understand God's plan of redemption for mankind.

They know very well that God has appointed a day when Satan will be bound, and his dominion of darkness will be crushed, just as Genesis 3:15 states.

In other words, the demons know that their days are numbered.

But the demons also knew that Jesus is early.

It was not the time for the second coming. This was the first coming of Jesus.

Not only did they know it, Jesus knew it too!

Jesus knows that all things must happen in His Father's time, not His.

So, the demons were objecting to Jesus presence in a way.

They were defiant.

They were reminding Jesus that it was not yet time to cast them into the bottomless pit of hell.

What's all that tell us?

The demons have better eschatology than we do.

They understand the book of Revelation.

Demons are fundamentalists in their theology.

They may even be pre-trib!

cf. James 2:19 CSB—*You believe that God is one. Good! Even the demons believe—and they shudder.*

Demons tremble with fear and terror, **BECAUSE** they know there is a judgment day.

Mark 5:8 CSB—*For Jesus had told him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"*

As this demon is speaking, Jesus already starts the exorcism.

They both start to talk at the same time.

~~The demons did not attack Jesus; Jesus is the one attacking them.~~

It's entirely possible that Jesus did cast out a demon at that point, but because there were so many, the others remained.

And in the process of casting out the demon, Jesus paused to ask him,

Mark 5:9 CSB—*"What is your name?" he asked him.*

"My name is... Legion, because we are many."

Notice the grammar in this verse. It's broken.

It's almost as if the man himself—not the demon—starts to speak, "My name is..."

But then the demons overpower him and take over the conversation, "...Legion because we are many."

The demons are trying to intimidate Jesus.

This is a title, not a name.

They didn't answer Jesus.

Legion—a Latin word that ^{represents} suggests power, numbers, strength, and crushing opposition.

~~A legion indicates to Jesus the strength of the demons.~~

~~And it explains the supernatural strength of this man.~~

It represents a number in a Roman military unit consisting of 6,000 foot soldiers and 120 horsemen).

This title adds another facet to this man's violent history.

~~The demons are angry and divisive.~~

"Jesus, we know that you are the son of God, but you are you. You stand there as a man, and you're alone. We are six thousand strong—don't mess with us, Jesus."

~~But that doesn't prevent them from being who they are—pure wickedness.~~

Mark 5:10 CSB— And he begged Jesus earnestly not to send them out of the region.

This is the second time we see the demons begging Jesus to do something for them.

They knew that Jesus was getting ready to cast them out of this man.

How did they know that?

Once again, the demons know their theology.

They know the Scriptures. They watched God move firsthand.

they know the character of God.

+ **cf. Exodus 34:6 CSB**— The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth,

+ **cf. Exodus 34:7 CSB**— maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.

The demons know that the only thing Jesus cares about at this moment is 1) delivering and 2) saving this demon-possessed man.

And Jesus will do whatever it takes. Jesus is on mission.

Regardless, the demons also have a mission statement—to steal, kill, and destroy. (John 10:10)

And to accomplish their mission, demons need some type of body to occupy.

+ **Mark 5:11 CSB**— A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside.

+ **Mark 5:12 CSB**— The demons begged him, "Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them."

Notice here; the demons are now begging Jesus again.

Isn't this bizarre request bizarre?

The demons are desperate.

They realize that that they might be thrown into hell if they don't figure something out quickly.

If they could no longer torture ^{this} man, maybe they could torture ^{others} man through a herd of pigs.

That's desperate, but it just might give them enough time to find other human victims.

+ **Mark 5:13 CSB**— So Jesus gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

Isn't this verse crazy? *can you picture 2,000 hooligans freaking out as they pass by your home?*
 Jesus granted the demon's request!

But, the demons aren't clued into the surprise ending.

The joke is on them because unclean spirits and unclean animals are both wiped out in one fell swoop.

The demons were bent on destroying.

Not having been able to destroy the man, they destroyed the pigs.

Now, why would Jesus grant a demons request? *—Why didn't he send them to hell?*

Let me ask you this...
 Is it possible that Jesus wanted to give physical, tangible evidence to the man, to the disciples, to the herdsman, and the townspeople—

That the demons had actually left the demon-possessed man?

It was confirmation and proof of the deliverance.

More importantly, it demonstrated the extent of Jesus' authority over the demons themselves.

The demons had no choice but to obey Jesus' command.

Are demons powerful? You bet.

Satan is real. He's not some Halloween character running about in a red suit with a pitchfork....but...

KEYPOINT:

Luke 11:20 CSB—If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

In the demon's hostility and hatred toward Jesus, they tried to intimidate Him by not answering Jesus correctly.

They answered with a title. We are Legion. We are a force not to be reckoned with.

But through the OT, when the Lord fights for His people, He uses the phrase, "*With a strong arm or with an outstretched arm.*"

What's that look like?

And yet Jesus says,

If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

This fight was over before it started.

PREACH:

Ultimately today's message is a visible manifestation—a blatant representation of all our lives before Christ.

+ This demonized man is a picture of what all of us look like standing before a holy God, without the cross of Jesus Christ.

But Jesus came to set the captives free.

Scripture says that, "If the Son sets you free, you are free...indeed!"

When Jesus cast out the demons from ^{this} man into the pigs, Jesus delivered the man from the dominion of darkness into the power of God.

So if you are a Believer in Jesus Christ, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of God, this means that you can never be possessed. *Engagement ring*

+ Demons can certainly oppose and oppress you, but that's not possession. -Control

You are God's, and the devil has nothing on you.

That's why the gospel is called the Good News.

However, if there is Good News, that means there must be bad news.

And the bad news is that if you are not a Believer in Jesus Christ, Scripture says that you are a child of the devil and you live under the power of Satan. *spiritually dead*

But all that can change right now. *- Good works will not get you into Heaven -*

For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans 10:13)

+ For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes that He is God, died & risen from the grave will be saved.

PRAYER:

LORD'S SUPPER:

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