

**Mark 5:1-20**  
**Deliverance from**  
**Demons**

1

## Introduction

Sin and its consequences entered into creation when man joined Satan's rebellion. We look to Jesus' coming to redeem us from our sin, but the bigger picture is that Jesus came to deal with the root of the problem – Satan Himself.

1 John 3:8

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

2

## Mark 5:1-20

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.<sup>2</sup> And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,<sup>3</sup> who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,<sup>4</sup> because 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.<sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

<sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.<sup>7</sup> 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."

<sup>8</sup> For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"<sup>9</sup> Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?"

And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many."<sup>10</sup> Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

<sup>11</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains.<sup>12</sup> So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."<sup>13</sup> And at 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.

<sup>14</sup> 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.<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>16</sup> And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine.<sup>17</sup> Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

<sup>18</sup> And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.<sup>19</sup> 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."<sup>20</sup> And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

3

## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:1

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

The disciples had just watched Jesus exercise dominion over the forces of nature as He stilled the storm. They have now arrived at the other side of the sea in the country of the Gadarenes. This was a gentile area outside the boundaries of Israel.

There are those who attack the Bible by claiming that Mark and Luke state "the country of the Gadarenes" while Matthew uses the name "Gergesenes." There is no conflict. Mark and Luke refer to a small village where they ministered, while Matthew refers to a larger town which gave the region its name.

4

## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:2

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

The disciples may have thought that traveling across the lake would give them some reprieve from the crowds. Jesus, however, knew He had a divine appointment to keep. When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him. Matthew 8:28 indicates there were actually two such men. Though Mark and Luke chose to focus on the man with whom Jesus spoke, nothing in their accounts contradicts the material found in Matthew.

5

## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:2

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

Mark's statement that they met "a man with an unclean spirit" indicates he was demon-possessed. The Gospels states that Jesus' authority cast out these spirits and delivered the person. Though demons generally work in society through the promotion of error, lies, false religion and apostasy, demonic possession is an extreme form of individualized subjugation, where one or more evil spirits control a person's mind, body, and voice. When Scripture speaks of the power of fallen angels, it does so to demonstrate the infinitely greater power of God.

Those who belong to Jesus Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. They need not fear demon possession because they are the temple of the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 6:19–20). And as the apostle John told his readers, "Greater is He that is in you than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

6

## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:2-3

And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>3</sup> who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,

Mark notes that he had his dwelling among the tombs. Luke adds that "he wore no clothes" (Luke 8:27). The man's nakedness illustrated the physical torment he suffered at the hands of the demons who possessed him, since he was constantly exposed to the natural elements. The approach of these demon possessed men, must have startled the disciples. After a traumatic night on the lake, they were once again alarmed by the sudden appearance of these men.

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## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:3b-5

and no one could bind him, not even with chains, <sup>4</sup> because 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. <sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

The community realized that the man was dangerous and had attempted to bind him. The unclean spirits gave the man supernatural power so that he was able to pull the chains apart and broke the shackles in pieces. He had grown in power so that no one was able to restrain him. He was constantly screaming among the tombs and in the mountains gashing himself with stones. Matthew 8:28 notes that he and his companion were so extremely violent that no one could pass by that way.

8

## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:6-7

When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. <sup>7</sup> 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."

These men seeing Jesus from a distance ran and worshipped Him. They knew exactly who Jesus was. They called Him "**Son of the Most High God.**" This is a term used throughout Scripture to proclaim God's absolute authority over everything. That Jesus is the Son of the Most High God means that **He possesses the same authority and essence or nature as His Father.**

The fallen angels learned this the hard way when they rebelled against God and realized just how powerful He was. Trembling in the presence of their divine Judge, the demons feared Jesus might immediately cast them into the pit where other fallen angels were held captive. They also had an understanding that they were under judgment, but that it was not the time for their final sentencing.

9

## Demon's Destructive Power

Mark 5:6-7

When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. <sup>7</sup> 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."

Aware of God's timetable and believing their appointed day of punishment to still be future, they blurted out, "What have I to do with You?" and also, "Have You come here to torment us before the time?" (Matt. 8:29). As they bowed before Jesus, one cried out, "I implore You by God that You do not torment me!" Though the time of final judgment for fallen angels has not yet come, their reign of terror on earth has an end. One day Satan and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire, in which they will suffer eternal torment (cf. Matt. 25:41; Rev. 14:11).

10

## Jesus' Devine Deliverance

Mark 5:8-9

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

Jesus began to deliver the man from his possession. He said "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" In the process of casting out the demon, Jesus paused to ask him, "What is your name?" the man replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." That was not the man's name, but the title taken by the demon forces who indwelt the man. Legion is a military term for a group of up to six thousand soldiers, demonstrating just how "many demons had entered him." Jesus demanded the name so He could demonstrate the extent of His power over the realm of Satan. He not only had the authority to cast out a solitary demon but also an entire horde.

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## Jesus' Devine Deliverance

Mark 5:10-12

Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.<sup>11</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains.<sup>12</sup> So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."

The spokesman for the demons begged Jesus earnestly not to send them out of the country. Luke 8:31 adds, "**They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.**" Jesus could have exiled them to any place He wanted. These demons noticed a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain, they saw a possible escape. The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them."

12

## Jesus' Devine Deliverance

Mark 5:13

And at 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.

Jesus' permission for them to enter the pigs was neither compromise nor compassion. By granting permission for these demons to go into the herd of pigs, Jesus was allowing them to put on display the true magnitude of their destructive and deadly force. In so doing, He also highlighted the superiority of His own power.

Given permission, the unclean spirits entered about 2000 pigs, indicating the large number of spirits the man was possessed by. The herd ran violently down and into the sea and drowned. This shows the destructive power of these spirits but also highlights that Jesus' power was greater!

13

## Jesus' Devine Deliverance

Mark 5:14-15

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. <sup>15</sup> 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.

This must have been a terrifying experience for those watching. It is understandable that those tending the pigs would flee to the city and tell what had happened. The people came out to see what had happened and found the one possessed by the demons delivered and sitting clothed and in his right mind. It must have been a shocking site and the whole situation filled the people with fear (sheer dread and terror).

For the disciples, it continued to demonstrate Jesus' divine power. They had seen Him calm the wind and the sea, and now with just a spoken word, He demonstrated His authority over a legion of demons!

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## The People's Response

Mark 5:16-17

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

You would think that these people would have been filled with awe and turn to Jesus. However, when they heard the eyewitness testimony of Jesus' authority over the Spiritual Realm they were filled with fear and pleaded with Him to depart from their region.

In a tragic twist of events, the legions of demons, recognizing Jesus' authority, pleaded with Jesus that they might stay in the region. The people recognizing Jesus' authority, pleaded with Jesus to leave the region. In both cases, Jesus honored their request. His mission was accomplished. The men were delivered and as a testimony of unbelief, those who had seen a great light preferred to live in darkness.

15

## The Response of the Delivered

Mark 5:18-20

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. <sup>19</sup> 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." <sup>20</sup> And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

The man who had been demon-possessed begged that he might go with Jesus. Jesus denied this request but told him to "**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 man was obedient and proclaimed throughout the area what Jesus had done for him. Those who heard his story marveled at what had taken place.

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## So What ...

We are also delivered people. We were trapped in the bondage of sin and Jesus delivered us. We may also want to go with Jesus, but for now we are told to stay. While on this earth, we follow the same command given to the man in our story. We are to go to our homes, friends, and community and tell them what great things the Lord has done for us, and how He has shown us great compassion. Who will you share your story with?