

Mark 5:1-20

¹ So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him. ³ This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴ Whenever he was put into chains and shackles-- as he often was-- he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. ⁶ When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. ⁷ With a shriek, he screamed, "Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had already said to the spirit, "Come out of the man, you evil spirit." ⁹ Then Jesus demanded, "What is your name?" And he replied, "My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man." ¹⁰ Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. ¹¹ There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹² "Send us into those pigs," the spirits begged. "Let us enter them." ¹³ So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. ¹⁶ Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. ¹⁷ And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. ¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." ²⁰ So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them. (NLT)

¹ Cruzaron el lago hasta llegar a la región de los gerasenos. ² Tan pronto como desembarcó Jesús, un hombre poseído por un espíritu maligno le salió al encuentro de entre los sepulcros. ³ Este hombre vivía en los sepulcros, y ya nadie podía sujetarlo, ni siquiera con cadenas. ⁴ Muchas veces lo habían atado con cadenas y grilletes, pero él los destrozaba, y nadie tenía fuerza para dominarlo. ⁵ Noche y día andaba por los sepulcros y por las colinas, gritando y golpeándose con piedras. ⁶ Cuando vio a Jesús desde lejos, corrió y se postró delante de él. ⁷ —¿Por qué te entrometes, Jesús, Hijo del Dios Altísimo? —gritó con fuerza—. ¡Te ruego por Dios que no me atormentes! ⁸ Es que Jesús le había dicho: «¡Sal de este hombre, espíritu maligno!» ⁹ —¿Cómo te llamas? —le preguntó Jesús. —Me llamo Legión —respondió—, porque somos muchos. ¹⁰ Y con insistencia le suplicaba a Jesús que no los expulsara de aquella región. ¹¹ Como en una colina estaba paciendo una manada de muchos cerdos, los demonios le rogaron a Jesús: ¹² —Mádanos a los cerdos; déjanos entrar en ellos. ¹³ Así que él les dio permiso. Cuando los espíritus malignos salieron del hombre, entraron en los cerdos, que eran unos dos mil, y la manada se precipitó al lago por el despeñadero y allí se ahogó. ¹⁴ Los que cuidaban los cerdos salieron huyendo y dieron la noticia en el pueblo y por los campos, y la gente fue a ver lo que había pasado. ¹⁵ Llegaron adonde estaba Jesús, y cuando vieron al que había estado poseído por la legión de demonios, sentado, vestido y en su sano juicio, tuvieron miedo. ¹⁶ Los que habían presenciado estos hechos le contaron a la gente lo que había sucedido con el endemoniado y con los cerdos. ¹⁷ Entonces la gente comenzó a suplicarle a Jesús que se fuera de la región. ¹⁸ Mientras subía Jesús a la barca, el que había estado endemoniado le rogaba que le permitiera acompañarlo. ¹⁹ Jesús no se lo permitió, sino que le dijo: —Vete a tu casa, a los de tu familia, y diles todo lo que el Señor ha hecho por ti y cómo te ha tenido compasión. ²⁰ Así que el hombre se fue y se puso a proclamar en Decápolis lo mucho que Jesús había hecho por él. Y toda la gente se quedó asombrada. (NVI)

Notes:

- A. After Jesus calms the fierce storm, He encounters a demon possessed man.
 - a. The demons make the man very strong.
 - i. The man breaks chains and shackle.
 - ii. No man is strong enough to subdue him.
 - b. The man is possessed by not one, but many demons—thousands of demons.
 - i. The demons' name is Legion, because there are many demons in the man.
 - ii. The demons destroyed about 2,000 pigs—so there were at least around 2,000 demons.
 - c. The man is being destroyed by the demons.
 - i. The man lives in a cemetery,
 - 1. Away from friends, family, society.
 - ii. Day and night (constantly) he wanders alone howling—crying out,
 - 1. Cutting himself.
 - iii. He is chained, probably so he doesn't hurt himself or others.
- B. Immediately when Jesus gets out of the boat, the demon possessed man sees Him and runs toward Him.
 - a. Even though the man is possessed by thousands of very strong and destructive demons, Jesus is stronger—He has authority and power over the demons!
 - i. All the demons can do is beg.
 - b. Jesus commands the demons to leave the man.
 - i. The demons obey—they have no other choice.
 - 1. There is no fight or battle; Jesus is in complete control and is utterly superior.
 - ii. The man is free from the torment, destruction, and craziness of the demons.
 - iii. The man sat clothed (he must have been naked or mostly naked before) and perfectly sane before Jesus.
- C. News of what happened spread.
 - a. The locals saw the man's restored sane condition and heard that Jesus was the cause, as well as what had happened to the pigs—they were afraid.
 - i. They begged Jesus to leave.

- D. Jesus began to leave, and the man who had been possessed begged Jesus to let him go with Him (and probably to be one of the Twelve).
 - a. Jesus has a different mission for the man.
 - i. The man is to go home, to his family and friends, and tell them about all that Jesus had done for him.
 - 1. The man gets to return to society, his family, and friends! He had been dangerous before, and was isolated living in the cemetery—living only amongst the dead; now he is capable to live amongst the living again.
 - ii. The man obeys.
 - 1. He traveled all over the region proclaiming the great things Jesus did for him.
 - a. Everyone was amazed at what he told them.
- E. Conclusion:
 - a. The main point—Jesus has authority over a powerful Legion of demons.
 - i. We saw last week how Jesus had authority over the forces of nature; now we see that He has authority over the supernatural forces of evil as well.
 - 1. Mankind does not have authority over these forces—only God does!
 - a. Jesus again, demonstrates authority that only God has.
 - b. Secondary points:
 - i. We see once again, mixed reactions to Jesus and his miracles.
 - ii. We see a vivid picture of what evil looks like and what its ultimate nature and goal is: corruption of God’s good creation and ultimately destruction.
 - iii. We see what God’s ultimate goal for us is: salvation and restoration—with ourselves, society, and God. Being with Jesus is the ultimate sanity.
 - iv. We see that discipleship doesn’t exactly consist of the same activities for everyone. This man wanted to go with Jesus, like the Twelve, instead Jesus had a different mission for him. He was to proclaim Jesus to his family, friends and his entire region.
 - v. The man was to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him. We all have great things that Jesus has done for us—a natural way to proclaim the Gospel is to proclaim the great things Jesus has done for us to those whom we are close to, to those whom we have relationships with—our family, friends, and community.