

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

SERVANTHOOD & SACRIFICE IN A SELFIE WORLD

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Sermon Notes

Men, Monsters and Miracles | Mark 5: 1-20
January 17, 2021

1. The _____ who lived in a grave with an evil spirit.
2. The _____ who have to be evicted.
3. The _____ who sends us back home “clothed and in our right minds.”
4. The _____ who evicts Jesus from their lives.

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QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER: Where are five places you really want to visit before you die?

1. Mark portrayed Jesus as full of action and authority. In context, He commanded the wind and waves, and they obeyed, leaving His disciples in awe [Mark 4:35-41]. He then commanded a legion of demons and they obeyed [Mark 5:6-13]. What do these stories tell you about Jesus' identity? Consider Luke 4:31-37; John 1:1-5; and Colossians 1:16 for more insights.
2. According to the Bible, unclean spirits exist [Mark 5:2]. A real, yet invisible world, is warring against the human race. How are believers to counter their evil influences [cf. Acts 26:18; Ephesians 6:10-20; James 4:7; and 1 Peter 5:8-9]?
3. Mark 5:3-5 describes the utter brokenness and lostness of a person as far removed from God and others as possible. How is his wretchedness described? What does it say about Jesus that He invested time and energy in him? Consult Matthew 9:35-36; Luke 5:29-32; and Luke 19:10 for further ideas.
4. The term "Legion" [Mark 5:9] means "thousands" and was used by the Romans for a military division. This name adds a sense of battle to the text, which, in fact, it was. What strategic lessons do you learn from Jesus' interchange with the demonic horde [cf. 1 Corinthians 15:23-28; Colossians 2:15; and Hebrews 2:14-15]?
5. Can you imagine witnessing a legion of unclean spirits possessing about 2000 "unclean" pigs and stampeding them down a sharp decline to drown in a sea [Mark 5:11-13]? This story vividly portrays the number, the influence, and the destructiveness of the demonic world. How do you personally resist such diabolical evil [cf. Romans 8:38-39; 2 Corinthians 2:11; and Ephesians 1:21-22]?
6. The opposing responses to Jesus could not be in starker contrast. The crowds from the city and countryside feared, and asked Jesus to leave [Mark 5:15-17], showing their persistent brokenness. However, the broken man made whole asked to leave with Jesus but was commissioned to share his story with other broken people [Mark 5:19-20]. Who do you know that is broken and needs Jesus to make them whole [cf. John 4:25-30; John 7:37-38; John 8:12; and John 9:24-41]?
7. What did you find helpful or challenging about this Sunday's message?

"There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors, and hail a materialist and a magician with the same delight." (C.S. Lewis)