

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 28TH–29TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

UNCLEAN (MARK 5:1–5)

THE GOSPEL OFFERS HOPE FOR EVERYONE

With the sea calmed, the boat makes landfall safely in a region called the Gerasenes. This was a primarily Gentile region on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

- While primarily ministering to the Jews, Jesus occasionally gave glimpses that revealed His coming “whole world” salvation.

AN UNCLEAN MAN

Jewish law was big on being “clean” so that one could go to worship. According to the law, this man had three strikes against him: **1)** He was a Gentile, **2)** He had an unclean spirit, and **3)** He lived in the tombs (contact with the dead made one unclean).

- **The unclean were not unclean to Jesus.**

WHO COULD NOT BE TAMED

This man had supernatural power that came from the demonization, such that shackles and chains could not restrain him. He was also in torment, as seen by his crying out and cutting himself with stones.

- **Demons come to steal, kill, and destroy those who are created in God's image.**

DID ANYONE CARE?

The people's response to this man was to isolate him, imprison him, and ignore him. There seems to be no sense of sympathy or empathy from the people for a hurting man.

- **Do we truly believe every man, woman, boy, and girl is created in the image of God and should be shown the love of God?**

FREEDOM (MARK 5:6–13)

RECOGNITION

Instead of attacking Jesus, the man knelt before Him. This demonized man had more recognition of who Jesus was than His own disciples at this point. “Most High God” was a Gentile expression acknowledging there was one God over all gods.

- **Demons submit to Jesus more than we do.**

REALLY SEEING JESUS

The demon(s) knew Jesus was God, knew He was the second person of the Trinity (Son of the Most High God), knew He held all authority, and knew He could command it. But it did not love Jesus or want to submit to Him.

- **Knowing Jesus should grow our love, worship, and devotion to Him.**

CONFRONTATION

The demon(s) calls itself “Legion” because there were many within the man, though we do not know how many. A Roman legion had around 6,000 troops, so it was a lot. **But not too many for Jesus!**

- **Jesus is King over all! He is working all things out for our good and His glory!**

BARGAINING WITH GOD?

There is a lot we do not know about this interaction. Jesus had already commanded the demon(s) to come out of the man, but it had not. The demon asks Jesus for mercy, knowing a time was coming when it would enter into eternal torment (but not yet).

- We know how things end: **Jesus wins!**

DESTRUCTION

The demon(s) asks for permission to enter the herd of pigs, which Jesus allows. We see the destructive desire of demons as they cause the 2,000 pigs to rush into the sea and drown.

- **We live in a world filled with rebellion against Jesus that leads to chaos, not peace.**

RESTORED (MARK 5:14–20)

JESUS AND HIS WORK CANNOT BE IGNORED

In the Gospels, Jesus drew crowds wherever He went. All were amazed at the things He did, but not all believed in Him. The pig herders told the town what Jesus did, and they came to see.

- **Jesus was polarizing and still is today. Following Him is a call to battle.**

THE IMPORTANT THINGS

The loss of the pigs concerned the people more than the restoration of the man. The things of the world meant more to them than the work of God. **Profit was more important than people.**

- **We must be careful that concern for the temporary does not replace concern for what will last forever.**

THE EVIDENCE IS THERE

The man was healed—fully healed! No longer in torment, the man was at peace emotionally, physically, and spiritually. The townspeople should have rejoiced over all Jesus did, but they were afraid and begged Him to leave.

- **There are only two responses to God's work: hardened hearts or worship.**

WHEREVER HE LEADS WE WILL GO

Jesus permitted the demons to go into the pigs but did not permit the man to go with Him. Jesus had another purpose for the man: to be His witness to the Gentile cities of the Decapolis.

- **We must trust that a “no” from Jesus means a “yes” to something amazing**, even if it is not initially what we want.

A MESSAGE TO SHARE

This man had a story to tell. Jesus had done much for the man by showing him mercy through deliverance. And so, the man obediently and joyfully obeys the Lord.

- **All those in Jesus have a story of deliverance as well. Are we obediently and joyfully sharing all Jesus has done for us?**

THE BIBLE IS NOT TELLING US:

- How one becomes demonized (so we should be careful what we let in).
- How to do exorcisms.
- To look for demons behind every event that frustrates us.
- What it does tell us: **Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world** (1 John 4:4).

BAIT AND SWITCH

- **The culture's definition of freedom is really bondage, while being a bondservant to Jesus is true freedom.**
- Our culture promises contentment but produces chaos: depression, divorce, suicide, war, poverty, anxiety, and more.
- **Only Jesus fully delivers on His promises.**

ONLY JESUS IS WORTHY OF WORSHIP

- Mark shows us that Jesus is Lord over creation, over demons, and (we will see) over sickness and death.
- **Most of us probably will not worship the devil, but we will allow ourselves to be distracted instead of sitting at Jesus' feet.**
- Worship is war with the flesh, world, and devil.

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL OR FOR NONE

- **None of us are so far from God that Jesus will not allow us to come to Him.**
- We do not war against people; we war against sin.
- **If Jesus, who was truly holy and sinless, went to the “unclean,” shouldn't we?**
- We limit the extent of the gospel, not Jesus.