

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 29TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

EXTERNAL (MARK 5:1-5) THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA

Mark shares a time when Jesus and His disciples traveled to another region that was mostly inhabited by Gentiles. Jesus was not just getting away from the crowds; He intentionally entered a new area to share the Word and serve the people.

- **Jesus has always sought people where they are; who they are and what they are does not stop Him. He seeks people.**

A MAN WITH AN UNCLEAN SPIRIT

In a parallel passage, Matthew mentions there were two demon-possessed men at the scene. It is possible that the cave-like tombs served as home for many who were separated from society and this particular man was the worst case.

- It makes sense that Mark would record the worst case to show that Jesus had the power to deliver anyone from possession.

NO ONE WAS STRONG ENOUGH

People had tried to “help” this man by binding him with chains. He was uncontrollable and supernaturally strong. Mark shares the testimony that people could hear him crying out and see his suffering as the demon tried to destroy God’s creation.

- **Demon possession is not mere sickness or insanity but a desperate satanic attempt to distort and destroy God’s image in humanity.**

INTERNAL (MARK 5:6-13) HE RAN AND KNELT DOWN

This is the first time we see a demon move to engage Jesus. Did Jesus command him? Was there enough strength left in the man to guide the demon to Jesus? We do not know. We do know that this was another divine appointment.

- **Jesus sees beyond what everyone else sees. He sees inside and knows how to help in our greatest times of brokenness.**

HE CRIED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE

The demon in charge, kneeling in fear, fully recognizes the power Jesus has. He knows that Jesus has the power to send him out of the man and into the eternal abyss. He calls Jesus by name. He begs before God. He did not want judgment.

- **Recognizing Jesus and calling out to Him is not the same as surrendering, worshiping, and following Jesus.**

WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

Earlier, Jesus had commanded the demon to come out of the man. Now, we find out what Jesus already knew: there was more than one demon in this man. This legion of demons, possibly thousands, would go where Jesus was about to send them, and they wanted to make a suggestion.

- **As Believers, shouldn't we be WILLING to go where Jesus sends us? How many suggestions are we making?**

SEND US TO THE PIGS

Now, Jesus hears all of the demons begging Him not to send them into eternity, and the consensus among them was “send us to the pigs.” Somehow, this seemed like a good alternative or compromise. To these demons, pigs were as good as people. They would do anything to escape their encounter with Jesus.

- **Are we making plans to get away from Christ and His influence in our lives? What really looks better than being in His presence?**

INTO THE SEA AND DROWNED

The story takes a turn when this legion of demons enters a couple thousand pigs, which run off into the sea and drown. Mark has told us about what people saw, the demons Jesus talked to, and even the pigs that carried the demons to their destruction. What was left behind?

- **Can we see beyond the opinions of people and the chaos of a broken life? Jesus did not go to meet a bunch of demons. He went to save a man. He sees beyond our mess, too.**

THE REQUESTS (MARK 5:14-20) THE MEN WHO TENDED THEM

These pig herders fled in fear. They told of what had happened, probably so they would not be blamed. When the people came and saw Jesus and the restored man, they begged Jesus to leave. It was not the healing that moved them; it was the loss. If Jesus stayed, it could cost them even more.

- **When Jesus shows His power, do we see salvation or what we might “lose”?**

BEGGED HIM EARNESTLY

In contrast with the locals, the man who had been demon-possessed was begging to stay with Jesus. He had not just seen and heard Jesus; he had personally experienced His power to save and wanted to follow Him as a disciple.

- **For so long, his heart, soul, mind, and strength had been in chaos and out of control. Now, he WANTED to give them all to Jesus.**

REPORT HOW MUCH THE LORD HAS DONE

Jesus tells him to go back to his family and report to them how much the Lord had done and how He had mercy on him.

- He obeyed and began to share in the ten Greek cities nearby, and they were amazed.
- There is no other record of Jesus returning to this area.
- **This guy may have been the first missionary to the Gentiles! He wanted to go with Jesus but, instead, He took Jesus home.**

WANT

- We all have wants and needs.
- **Some things are easy to classify. Others can be very subjective.**
- **It becomes a big problem when we confuse the two categories. Obviously, needs are more important than wants. Are we masking our wants and telling ourselves they are needs?**

NEED

- We definitely have needs.
- **Needs are the things we truly cannot live without.**
- **We need Jesus. We need Him more than anything we may want. Are we giving Him a list of wants and suggestions so He can meet our “needs”? How many adjustments do we need Him to make before His message is reasonable to us?**

CHANGE

- Change needs to happen.
- **The world needs to change, the culture needs to change, the church needs to change, and we need to change!**
- **Do we want to? Do we want to follow Jesus as HE leads? We may not realize how much we NEED to follow Him until it is the one thing we WANT to do most in our lives.**