



A PORTRAIT OF POWER

Mark 5:1-20

SERMON SUMMARY...

Lasting change... meaningful transformation... wholistic healing – how can we see these things become a reality in our lives? The portrait of Jesus painted in Mark 5 provides an answer to this crucial question. Through the life of the demoniac, we see just how powerful Jesus' power is. Where no one else was able to provide help, healing, and hope; at just the spoken word of Jesus, there was freedom and restoration. As we see in Mark 5, Jesus' power leaves us with a choice – follow Him and His mission for our lives, namely testifying to His power, or remain at a distance from Jesus fearing what His power might mean in your story. Which will you choose?

KEEP IN MIND...

Demons... evil spirits... Satan... death – talking about these topics is at best difficult. But what might be difficult for us talk about the Bible does not remain silent on. The Scriptures make clear that our battle is not a natural one, but a spiritual one – see [Ephesians 6:12](#). Much of Jesus' ministry involved fighting evil, unclean, demonic forces. The story of the Demoniac is found in all of the synoptic gospels – [Matthew 8:28-34](#), [Luke 8:26-39](#), and here in [Mark 5:1-20](#). Each gospel writer has one aim in mind in sharing this story – help the readers realize that Jesus is more powerful than the spiritual world. Satan and demons are no match for Jesus – He is the victor and redeemer of those in bondage to the demonic forces in the unseen world.

When discussing spiritual warfare, we must approach this subject with great care as there is unfortunately much confusion around this subject. In [Mark 5](#) we see a man who has been possessed by 'many' demons that have devastated his life. Demonic possession still happens today but this is not something that Christ followers must fear for it is impossible for a Christian to be possessed by demons. Followers of Christ have been given the fullness of the Spirit of God, that is to say, we are indwelt or filled with God's Spirit – see [1 Corinthians 2:12](#). Where Christians need to be consistently on guard against is spiritual deception – believing things about God, ourselves, or others that are not true or consistent with the gospel message.

As we see with the demoniac in Mark 5, Jesus is greater and more powerful than any host of demonic forces. He can restore fully that which evil spirits sought to destroy. The great promise that Christ followers must cling to is found in 1 John 4:4 – *"But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world."*

Portraits of JESUS

ACCORDING TO MARK

CONNECT...

If there was one change you could make in your life, what would it be? Worry less? Stop being so anxious or fearful? Learn how to slow down and rest? Maybe not be so angry or bitter? Form a new habit or maybe break an old destructive habit? We all have something that we'd love to see change in our story, so what is the change you'd love to see take place in yours?

LEARN... BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION...

1. Spend a few minutes reading [Mark 4:35-41](#). Jesus asks His disciples two important questions – “*Why are you afraid?*” & “*Do you still have no faith?*” In light of what the disciples experienced on the Sea of Galilee in the midst of the storm, how do these questions prepare the disciples for what they would witness once they arrived on the other side of the Sea of Galilee where they'd be confronted by the demoniac?
2. Read the entire story of the Demoniac in [Mark 5:1-20](#). Spend a few minutes making some general observations about this story. What questions or observations surface immediately for you in this text? What stands out to you about the characters within this narrative – the demoniac, legion (the demons), the townspeople, and Jesus?
3. Mark highlights in great detail how Legion (many demons) had destroyed this man's life – [Mark 5:2-5](#). In what ways had this man's life been devastated by the impact of these evil spirits possessing him? Read [Ephesians 6:12](#) – in light of what we see with the Demoniac and what the Apostle Paul teaches in Ephesians 6, how are we to understand spiritual warfare? Is this something we are to live in fear of? Why would it be impossible for a Christian to be possessed by a demon(s)?
4. Read [Mark 5:6-8](#) – The demons (legion) had identified Jesus correctly (the Son of God), but failed to submit (or repent) to Jesus as the Son of God. What is the difference between spiritual identification and spiritual submission? How does [James 2:19](#) help us understand the difference?
5. Legion requests for Jesus to send them into the pigs grazing nearby. Why would Jesus grant them this request knowing full well that these unclean, evil spirits would destroy the pigs? Is there a connection between the destruction of the pigs and the Jewish people who were tending to them?
6. Read [Mark 5:16-17](#) – upon seeing the impact that Jesus' power had on the demoniac (set free & restored), why would the townspeople request Jesus to leave? How does their response to Jesus mimic that of the evil spirits response to Jesus? Ultimately, what were the townspeople afraid of?
7. Read [Mark 5:18-20](#) – why would Jesus not allow this man to follow Him? What does his response to Jesus command reveal about Jesus' power and His desire for others to experience His power firsthand?



ACT... APPLYING WHAT WE LEARNED...

The man who had been possessed by many demons wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus said no. The mission Jesus had for him did not involve traveling with Jesus, rather, the mission Jesus had for the man formerly possessed by demons was to travel back home to his family to testify to the power of Jesus' work in his life.

Share with your GROUP how you have experienced the power of Jesus at work in your life? How has His power been made manifest in your life? Where is Jesus wanting His power to be made manifest in your life today?

Who is one person in your life (*family, neighborhood, work, school, etc.*) that you can share your testimony of what God has done in your life? What aspects of His power at work in your life might you focus on when sharing your testimony – think upon the changes, transformation, or healing that has taken place in your story as a result of Jesus' power at work in you.

HAPPENING AT GENESIS...

FIRST FRIDAY – Join the GENESIS Community on Friday, November 5th at 7PM for a powerful time of corporate prayer.

GROUPS 101 – Interested in learning about becoming a GROUP leader? On Sunday, November 21st at 10AM, you'll have the opportunity to learn more about this important role in helping others walk with God. You can REGISTER [here](#).

WATCH/LISTEN TO 'A PORTRAIT OF POWER' HERE:

<https://www.genesisthejourney.com/resources/sermons/portrait-of-power/>

NEXT UP...

Sunday, November 7th – A PORTRAIT OF COMPASSION – [Mark 6:30-44](#).