

## MARK 5 SERIES

### DEVILS CAST OUT; DISEASE HEALED; DEAD RAISED!

#### Mark 5 Part 1: Impossible to Be Restrained – Jesus Intervened! (Vv. 1-20)

#### Today's Study: Mark 5:1-7 Part A

1. Historical Setting (Background) v. 1.
2. Hopelessly Possessed, Tyrannized and Feared by Everyone Vv. 2-5.
3. Hounded by Demons . . . Identified Jesus Vv. 6-7

#### INTRODUCTION

##### 1. **General Comments . . . Mark 5 (Briefly Stated).**

As we observed in the final paragraph of Mark 4 (35-41), Jesus can preserve us in times of danger. The disciples were panic-stricken due to the boisterous storm they were experiencing at the time, fearing the boat would be destroyed and their lives endangered, but Christ was there to calm the troubled waters. **Beloved, in every heaving (swelling, rippling, etc.) sea of calamity, Jesus Christ is united with His beloved people. He feels for us, He is touched with our infirmities, and He will sustain us (see John 10:27-28).**

We commence Mark 5, observing Jesus' encounter with a demonic, who horrified his neighbors, howling among the tombs, where he lived. The satanic powers tyrannized and made him abuse himself, the citizens had often bound him with shackles and chains (Mark 5:4); however, despite the efforts made to confine him, he was able to break free because his strength was increased and intensified by his disorder. He was healed by Jesus, which is an acknowledgment of His power and control over demons (Matt. 9:27-34, NB v. 33; 15:21-28, NB v. 28; Mark 1:21-28, NB v. 26; etc.).

It is unfortunate that despite the great deliverance Jesus wrought in healing the demonic man who the citizens feared, and eventually they asked Christ to leave their country (Mark 5:14-20).

##### **Barnes notes:**

*"It is no common thing for Jesus to take men at their word, and leave them. He gives over to their worldly thoughts and pursuits; He suffers them to sink into crime, and they perish forever. Alas! How many are there, like the dwellers in the country of the Gergesenes, that ask Him to go without a sigh; and that never, never again behold Him coming to bless them with salvation!"*

The story of the woman with a hemorrhage demonstrates great faith on the part of a woman who had tried every remedy without avail – a woman who had tried every remedy without any success – a woman who could have given up losing hope of ever getting the deliverance she so greatly desired but she never gave up!!

The story of Jairus and his daughter demonstrate great faith on the part of a religious and notable leader. At that particular time most of the Jewish leaders strongly opposed Jesus Christ but Jairus approached Christ with unmovable faith.

As we examine verses 1-20 and 21-43 very easily, we observe an astonishing contrast; while the citizens of Gadarenes rejected Christ (Mark 5:1-20, NB Vv. 17-20); however, when Christ went across the Sea of Galilee (the Capernaum area), a great multitude greeted Him (Mark 5:20-21). In Mark 5:21-43, we witnessed Christ **“Curing the Incurable”** (Vv. 25-34), and giving **“Hope in a Hopeless Situation”** (Vv. 21-24, 35-43).

## 2. **Mark 5:1-20**

**The Spirit of God controls people to different stages.** This control by God through, His Holy Spirit is clearly stated in Scriptures, for example see Rom. 8, NB Vv. 1-14. This life-giving Spirit is the Holy Spirit; He was present at the creation of the world (Gen. 1:2), and the power behind the new birth of every Christian (John 3:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:3; etc.) The Holy Spirit gives us power that we need to live victorious lives. (Note Rom. 8:9-11, 15-17; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; Gal. 5:22-25; Eph. 6:10-18; etc.).

**Evil spirits also control people in various ways.** To be possessed by evil means ownership; the demon exercise power, harsh control is exercised over the individual and the demon (demons) uses (use) the person’s power against himself (herself). These factors are clearly demonstrated in the demon possessed man in our text (Mark: 5:1-20; Matt. 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-39) (**NOTE:** Matthew’s account mentions two men).

**In regards to demon possession, note a few Scriptural references, briefly noted:**

- (a) We have seen where some men are said to be controlled by demons: Matt. 12:22; 15:22; 17:15; Mark 1:23-26; 1:32; etc.)
- (b) Mary Magdalene who became a faithful follower of Christ; she was cleansed of seven demons (Luke 8:2).
- (c) Jesus gave a graphic and powerful illustration when he made reference to a heart cleansed and remained unoccupied will be reinhabited by the expelled demon, who returned with seven other more vicious to occupy (Matt. 12:43-45).

**A quote from Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible:**

*“The man in the present passage is said to have been possessed by a legion, that is hordes of demons. No matter how much a man is possessed and controlled by evil, no matter how wild and mean he is, Christ can deliver him. The man can experience a **great deliverance**. There is wonderful hope for all – even for the most wild and mean.”*

### 3. The Divisions for Mark 5:1-20.

*I have identified six main points.*

- (a) Historical Setting (Background) v. 1.
- (b) Hopelessly Possessed, Tyrannized and Feared by Everyone Vv. 2-5.
- (c) Hounded by Demons . . . Identified Jesus Christ Vv. 6-7.
- (d) Help Comes from the Lord! Vv. 8-13.
- (e) Healed . . . Normalcy Experienced! Horrified Citizens! Vv. 14-17.
- (f) Heeding the Request to Leave . . . Instructions Given to the Man Healed Vv. 18-20.

### 4. Please note that we will be discussing Mark 5:1-20 in two parts: Part A covering verses 1-7 and Part B covering verses 8-20.

## THE EXPOSITION

### Impossible To Be Restrained . . . Jesus Intervened Mark 5:1-20

#### A. Historical Setting (Background) Mark 5:1

*“Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes” (5:1a NKJV).*

##### 1. Prior Area Christ Ministered (Mark 5:1a).

*“Then they came to . . .” (5:1a NKJV).*

- (a) In Mark 4:1-34, Christ presented three parables, comparing God’s kingdom to seed: (1) *“The Sower and Soils”* (Vv. 1-20), (2) *“The Seed”* or *“The Growing Seed”* (Vv. 30-34) and (3) *“The Grain of Mustard Seed”* (Vv. 30-31). Please note that some source includes Vv. 21-25 as another parable.

**From these parables two main truths are emphasized:**

- (1) We must be careful to obey the Word of God.
- (2) God’s Word will accomplish its purpose.
- (b) Christ’s departure is noted in Mark 4:35-41 . . . His command to the disciples was: ***“Let us cross over to the other side”*** (Mark 4:35 NKJV).
  - (1) He left the territory of Galilee to go to the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1).
  - (2) We observe that while on the Sea of Galilee a violent storm arose but Jesus calmed the storm (Mark 4:36-41).
  - (3) The disciples were so deeply moved by Christ’s power that they asked: ***“Who can this be?”*** (Mark 4:41). The answer to their question: ***“The Son of God!”***
  - (4) In Mark 5:1, we have the party arriving in the Gadarenes.

##### 2. Present Location . . . Gadarenes (Mark 5:1b)

*“. . . came to the other side of the sea to the country of the Gadarenes” (5:1b NKJV).*

- (a) Although Gadarenes and Gergesenes are derived from a different Greek word, they are essentially referring to the same area.

- (1) The city of Gadara and its surrounding area are referred to as the Gadarenes. The region is located east of the Jordan River and Southeast of the Sea of Galilee.
  - (2) This was predominantly a Gentile area but Jesus' power, even over evil spirits extended beyond the country of the Jews into the Gentile world. Nothing is beyond His reach!
- (b) Somehow, I cannot but believe that Jesus knew why He wanted to enter this country (Gadarenes) (Mark 4:35).
- (1) Going to this area, He encountered a stormy sea, but His business there was to rescue a man trapped and tyrannized by demons for "*a long time*" (Luke 8:27).
  - (2) Similarly, He came from heaven to earth, going through all the suffering that were associated with His earthly ministry because He came to redeem lost mankind out of the bondage of the devil.
  - (3) The song: "**If That Isn't Love**"  
Partial quote  
 He left the splendor of heaven  
 Knowing His destiny  
 Was the lonely hill of Golgotha  
 There to lay down His life for me.

## B. Hopelessly Possessed, Tyrannized and Feared by Everyone Mark 5:2-5

### Introduction to Mark 5:2-5

We are pursuing a topic that has been widely discussed and has been presented in so many ways, of which some are inconsistent with Scriptures. What has been presented in this lesson has been done without getting involved in the continued debates. This is a very simple presentation with Scriptural references than you can use to verify the message presented.

### The following is a quote from *The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible*.

*"... evil spirits are demons. There is only one devil... However, there are many evil or unclean spirits or demons, and the New Testament has much to say about them. The characteristics of demons, are said to be as follows: (Other characteristics are observed in our lesson Mark 5:1-20... insert mine)*

- (a) *They are spirits* (Matt. 12:43-45).
- (b) *They are Satan's emissaries* (agents, ambassadors, etc... insert mine) (Matt 12:26-27).
- (c) *They know their fate is eternal doom* (Luke 8:31).
- (d) *They affect man's health* (Matt. 12:22; 17:15-18; Luke 13:16). (*Apparently, demon possession is to be distinguished from mental illness*).
- (e) *They seduce men to a false religion of asceticism* (harsh, severe, rigorous, etc... insert mine) (1 Tim. 4:1-3).
- (f) *They seduce men to depart from the faith* (1 Tim. 4:1).

- (g) *They are cast out of people (exorcism) in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 16:18).*  
 (h) *They shall participate in the apocalyptic judgment which will come upon the earth (Rev. 9:1-11).*

*Evil spirits are enemies of Christ and of man. As such, they oppress, and obsess people. (1) They delude the world and blind people to Christ (Eph. 2:2). (2) They attack theology (1 Tim. 4:1-3). (3) They attack society (Rev. 9:3, 20-21). (4) They attack individuals (Luke 8:29). (5) They influence people to commit the sins of demon worship, idolatry, sorcery, fornication, theft, murder, and much more (Rev. 9:20-21).*

***The believer's defense is the Lord. The believer must pray and fast and take on the armor of God in order to stand against their power (Matt. 17:21; Eph. 6:12)."***

(Emphasis mine).

**1. Demon Possessed Man was Their First Contact (Mark 5:2).**

*"And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit" (5:2 NKJV).*

- (a) Dreary, strange and somewhat frightening night (Mark 5:2a).

*"And when He was come out of the boat . . ." (5:2a NKJV).*

- (1) The night was stormy and pitch dark (Mark 4:35, 37).

- Arriving at their planned destination, the boat pulled up on shore in the center of a graveyard by the seashore.
- Obviously, the day was another heavily scheduled one, teaching the multitudes, etc. (Mark 4) and no wonder He (Christ) was asleep in the midst of a storm (Mark 4:38)

- (2) Through the information noted in Mark 4:35-5:1; many practical lessons are taught; for example: (1) Tempest will rage anytime (4:37), (2) Proof that Jesus was truly God and truly man, here we also see his humanity . . . *"He fell asleep" (4:38), ... etc.*

- (3) We have also seen Christ's Dominion (His Divinity made obvious) . . . *He calms the sea (4:39), . . . beloved, there is no need for us to become panic stricken despite any challenging situation . . . with Jesus' presence we can always smile at the storm (Mark 4:37-40; Psa. 107:28-32; 46:10; John 6:16-21; 16:33; etc.).*

- (b) Demon possessed man was the welcoming committee (Mark 5:2b).

*". . . immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man of the Gadarenes" (5:2 NKJV).*

- (1) Upon their arrival (now in The Gadarenes), they were immediately met by a savage-like man, who approach them, coming out from among the tombs.

- As noted, before, the time (Mark 4:35-5:20) was dreary, strange, frightening, etc. yet Jesus Christ guarantees victory over all adverse situations!
- This man that approached Christ and the disciples was hopelessly possessed!

- I have already presented some information in regards to one being demon possessed (*I will continue making reference to these very important facts and this means some repetition will occur*)
  - **Mark's objective is to make it obvious that the man (Mark 5:1-20) was possessed with evil spirits (demons) and it should be noted that this possession can happen to anyone that is not under Christ's protection.**
    - In Christ it means that we are delivered from demon possession (Eph. 2:2).
    - It means that we have been rescued from the power of darkness and transferred us into His kingdom (Col. 1:13-14).
    - Being in Christ and His presence abides in us means that He (Christ) who lives in us is greater than him who is in the world (John 4:4)
    - Etc.
    - The fact remains, Jesus Christ is God, and as God He cares and has the power to deliver the worst of the worst (Matt. 8:28-31; Mark 1:21-28; etc.).

(2) Explicitly clear, it was an established factor that the man (Mark 5:1-20) had an unclean or evil spirit.

- Some evil, spiritual power dwelt within his body; some alien, foreign outside power possessed and controlled the man.
- This demon possessed man represents the man who is not spiritual, one who has not been committed to Jesus Christ; this man is not possessed and controlled by God and His Spirit (**Rom. 8:14-16**; John 16:13-15; Gal. 5:22-23; etc. NOTE also Gal. 5:19-21).
- The miserable condition that this poor man was experiencing was one wherein he was under the control and domination of an unclean spirit . . . Satan had possession of him and he led a life of misery and hopelessness.

(3) **The Life Application Study Bible notes:**

*" . . . Even today, demons are dangerous, powerful and destructive. While it is important to recognize their evil activity, we should avoid any curiosity about our involvement with demonic forces or the occult (Deut. 18:10-12) if we resist the devil and his influences, he will flee from us."*

2. **Dwelling Place of This Demon Possessed Man** (Mark 5:3).

*" . . . who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains" (5:3NKV).*

(a) Dwelling among the tombs . . . the demonic greeter (Mark 5:3a).

*" . . . who had his dwelling among the tombs . . ." (5:3a NKJV)*

(1) He lived among the tombs (v. 3a).

- These were tall (high), arched roof tombs, that were carved out of the limestone hills.

- Evidently, the tombs were belonging to the Jews who were minority group in the Gadarenes.
    - Jewish cemeteries were always located outside the city or town.
    - Such location was necessary because Jewish law regarded a person to be ceremonially defiled if he touched a dead person (Num. 19:11-19; etc.).
- (2) Having the cemetery in the limestone hills, enabled them to find caverns (large caves, underground chamber) or gave access to carving out tombs.
- These tombs were large enough for a man to stand in.
  - It has been stated by some scholars that in some instances, these caves provided burial for the dead and shelter for those living in desperate situations meaning some very poor people lived in such caves most likely on a temporary basis.
- (b) Dead while he lived in a state of hopelessness (Mark 5:3b).  
*" . . . dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ..."* 5:3b NKJV)
- (1) Obviously, this man (Mark 5:3b) was not staying in the grave yard temporarily but was *" . . . dwelling among the tombs . . ."* (5:3a) and according to Luke's account this demon possessed man lived among the tombs *" . . . for a long time . . ."* (Luke 8:27).
- The evil spirit caused the man to dwell in the darkest, most terrifying place conceivable; he was abiding in the pitch black and creepiness that aggravated his condition!
  - In this situation (Mark 5:3-5) we have a portrayal of those who ***"loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil"*** (John 3:19).
- (2) His demon possessed condition ostracized him from society:
- He did not live among the living; he lived among the dead.
  - He represents ***"the living dead;"*** the living dead happens to be all those (men and women) without Christ . . . living physically, but they are ***"dead in their sins"*** (Col. 2:13 KJV). See also: Prov. 21:16; John 6:53; Eph. 2:2-3; 5:14; Rev. 3:1).
- (3) Time wouldn't allow for us to discuss the subject relating to ***"The Living Dead"*** but note one frequently used reference **1 Tim. 5:6**.
- Beloved, the worldly-minded, self-indulgent widow is characterized as spiritually dead. Indeed, physically alive but spiritually dead.
  - A person who is consumed with pleasure, sensuality, or materialism is described as being dead even while he or she lives (*quoted above 1 Tim. 5:6*) and such fact echoes the fact of spiritual emptiness of worldly living (Rom. 8:6-11, NB Vv. 6-7; etc.).
  - It is also necessary to focus on the fact that there is life for a look at the crucified One, Jesus Christ!! (John 3:16; 10:10; 14:6; Rom. 6:23; etc.).

3. **Disorderly, Unrestrained, Untamed, Wild, Naked and Violent!** (Mark 5:4).  
*“ . . . because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him”* (5:4 NKJV).
- (a) Fetters easily shattered as he was enabled by the demons (Mark 5:4a)  
*“ . . . because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, . . .”* (5:4a NKJV).
- (1) Although the villagers no doubt chained him partly for their own protection (**Note Matt. 8:28**), this harsh treatment added to his humiliation and misery.
- (2) His demonic possession made him very strong and ungovernable; *“... **no man could bind him**”* (Mark 5:3); such control was necessary both for the good and safety of the citizens or anyone who visited that area.
- Not only cords (ropes) would not hold him but chains and fetters of iron would not restrain him (Mark 5:3-4).
  - This is an example of a most dreadful situation wherein the man had to be bound; it is heart rending to think of all the miserable and restless people in the world, but this man’s case was worst, in whom the devil was so overwhelmingly in control that he (the demon possessed man) could not be bound.
- (b) Ferocious, unmanageable and demon empowered. (Mark 5:4b)  
*“ . . . And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him”* (5:4b NKJV).
- (1) As we have seen before, this unrestrained man was also untamed, wild, having a violent temper and possessed extraordinary strength.
- He represents the uncontrolled evil or depravity of man and the helplessness of man to deliver or save himself.
  - Compare Rom. 1:20-32; 3:10; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-7; 2 Peter 2:10-12.
- (2) He was stripped of **all** his basic human instincts, proper public decorum and the basic necessities.
- He not only broke his fetters and chains (**Mark 5:4**) but he also wore no clothing (**Luke 8:27**): **typical of the man who is spiritually naked and exposed to the judgment of God because of his consistent rebellion against God. We ALL need to be clothed in God’s righteousness!!** (Isa. 61:10; 2 Cor. 5:3; Eph. 4:23-24).
  - He was naked (note carefully Mark 5:15 after he was delivered); as we observe at this particular time before his deliverance, he was stripped of ALL decency and ALL acceptable righteous behavior (as noted earlier).
    - **He represents the “old man”** (Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:1-17, NB Vv. 5-9; Eph. 4:22-24), who stands naked before the eyes of God and who needs to be clothed with the righteousness of God and with the garments of the new man (2 Cor. 5:1-2, 21; Rom. 13:14; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10).

➤ **Rom. 13:14 Amp. Bible**

*“But clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for [nor even think about gratifying] the flesh in regard to its improper desire.”*

(3) The following partial quote referring to Mark 5:3-4 by Matthew Henry:

*“ . . . . . This sets forth the sad condition of those souls in which the devil has dominion; those children of disobedience, in whom that unclean spirit works. Some notoriously willful sinners are like this madman; all are herein like horse and the mule, that they need to be held in with bit and bridle; but some are like the wild ass, that will not be so held. The commands and curses of the law are chain and fetters, to restrain sinners from their wicked courses; but they break those bands in sunder, and it is evidence of the power of the devil in them.”*

4. **Desperately Hopeless and A Danger to Himself** (Mark 5:5).

*“And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones”* (Mark 5:5 NKJV)

(a) Solitary lifestyle; he was agitated and remained among the tombs (Mark 5:5a).

*“And always, night and day . . .”* (5:5a NKJV).

(1) Every word in the story emphasizes the man’s pathetic condition, as well as the purpose of the demonic possession – to torment and destroy the Divine likeness in which human beings are created.

(2) Note that this man (Mark 5:1-20) was a terror and torment to himself and to all about him (**Mark 5:5; Matt. 8:28**).

- In reality, the devil is a cruel master to those that are mastered by him.
- This hopeless/miserable man was **“night and day in the mountains in the tombs, . . .”** (Mark 5:5), . . . he dwells among the dead and in darkness.
- His life typifies restlessness, lack of peace and hopelessness because there is no peace for those who do not know the Lord!

➤ There is no peace for the worldly and wicked: Isa. 48:22; 59:8; Ezek. 7:25.

➤ Beloved, sin is destructive: Psa. 34:21; 140:11; Prov. 8:36; 11:3.

(b) Shrieking, screaming and mutilating himself was a norm – endangering himself (Mark 5:5b).

*“. . . he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.”* (5:5b NKJV).

(1) The endless agony of self-inflicted agony and the tyranny of the evil spirits.

**He was either bewailing his own deplorable situation or in a rage and indignation against God and His cause.**

- Men in a state of insanity often wound and destroy themselves; what an awful state when a man’s reason is dethroned and Satan enthroned!

- The worshippers of Baal in their fury cut themselves (1 Kings 18:25-29 NB Vv. 27-28), like this demon possessed man who also saw no hope of victory. While Satan whispers to those that he enslaves do thyself harm, God's is saying "Do yourself no harm . . ."

- (2) The man was a threat to himself and to others, inflicting harm upon himself and was a potential danger to others.
- He represents the man who has become dangerous and given over to evil that he is great threat to all.
  - He represents the man who is totally depraved, the man who is so far gone that he no longer respects human life even his own; the man ***"whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness"*** (Rom. 13:14) and whose ***"feet are swift to shed blood"*** (Rom. 3:15).
  - He represents the man who has fallen to the depths of the pit – so deep that he can fall no further. He is hopeless in an absolute sense. No one but God could save him!!

**C. Hounded by Demons, Tyrannized and Feared by Everyone Mark 5:6-7 ... See also Matt. 8:28.**

**1. Worship Given to Christ (Mark 5:6)**

*"When he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped Him"* (5:6 NKJV).

(a) Realized a special visitor was approaching (Mark 5:6a).

*"When he saw Jesus afar . . ."* (5:6a NKJV).

(1) We are seeing at this point that this man was mysteriously aroused!

- He was mysteriously and powerfully aroused by the approaching presence of Jesus Christ!!
- There was, is and will always be that compelling attraction produced by Christ's presence! Yes, some will repel but multitudes will still be attracted to Him!!

(2) The demon possessed man saw Jesus **afar off**, probably while Jesus was in the boat approaching the shore. **Mark 5:6:**

- **The Message Bible**

*"When he saw Jesus a long way off . . ."*

- **The Amplified Bible**

*"And when from a distance he saw Jesus . . ."*

(b) Respect/reverence given, be it voluntarily or involuntarily (Mark 5:6b)

*" . . . he ran and worshipped Him"* (5:6b NKJV).

(1) This demon possessed man usually ran upon others with rage as a result the citizens were fearful of going that way (**Matt. 8:28**); but he ran to Jesus with reverence!

(2) Matthew Henry notes:

*"This was done by an invisible hand of Christ which could not be done with chains and fetters; his fury was all on a sudden curbed. Even the devil, in this*

*poor creature, was forced to tremble before Christ, and bow to Him: or rather the poor man came, and worshipped Christ, in a sense of the need he had of His help, the power of Satan in and over him being for this instant suspended."*

- (3) Jesus Christ makes a difference in ALL lives, especially for those who are receptive; He came specifically to bring deliverance: **Matt. 1:21**; Acts 3:1-10; 2 Cor. 2:14; 5:17; Gal. 4:3-5; Etc.

2. **Worried Demons Acknowledged Christ and Plead to Him** (Mark 5:7).

*"And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.'"*

- (a) Divinity of Christ confessed by the demons.

*"And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus Son of the Most High God?" (5:7a NKJV).*

- (1) *"... **Son of the Most High God** . . ." (5:7):* the demon was speaking using the voice of the possessed man.

(2) **Scripture teaches four facts about the devil and his angels (messengers, demons, evil spirits) that should always be kept in mind.**

- They believe there is One God and they tremble (James 2:19).
- They have nothing to do with Jesus; that is their nature is entirely different from the clean spirit of Jesus. Evil spirits are dramatically opposed to purity and holiness of Jesus (2 Cor 4:3-4; Eph. 4:17-18).
- The Son of God has come to destroy the works of the devil. All evil and evil spirits are to be destroyed (1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14-15).
- Satan and his evil spirits are doomed to everlasting torment (Matt. 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 19:20; 20:10).

- (b) The dread which the devil had of Christ (Mark 5:7b)

*"... I implore You by God that You do not torment me" (5:7b NKJV).*

(1) **Mark 5:7 Amplified Bible**

*"And crying out with a loud voice, he said, What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? [What is there in common between us] I solemnly implore you by God, do not begin to torment me."*

- (2) This was the demon (evil spirit) speaking and not the possessed man. The fact is the demon did not want to leave his host.

- (3) These demons considered it a **"torment"** to be put out of this man's body. Demons want a spray-can, or a violent man wants a gun. A human body is a weapon that demons can use in attacking.

- (4) Demons also attack men because they hate the image of God in man (as noted before). They attack that **image** by debasing man and making him distorted – just as they did to this man in the country of the Gadarenes (Mark 5). (**A brief note:** The image of God in man is often described as: the moral, spiritual and intellectual nature . . . Gen. 1:26-28).

- (5) The following quote is detailed but worthy of our attention; taken from Life Application Study Bible.

*“The demon screamed at Jesus, ‘**Why are You interfering with me?**’ It was a shriek (**shriek**: scream . . . insert mine) of fear, defense, and rebellion against God. No one today would like to admit to being demon possessed, but most of our society, like the demon is screaming at God, the church, and Christian values, ‘**Why are you interfering with me? Get out of my life!!**”*

*When people reject Jesus Christ and His authority, they put themselves on the side of the demons and are heading in the same direction. Every person must ask: Will I choose autonomy (**autonomy**: freedom, self-determination, self-rule, etc. . . . insert mine) and self-will leading to destruction, or will I choose Christ’s loving leadership over my life, giving me forgiveness, healing from sin, cleansing and true freedom? **The answer has eternal consequences.”***

- (6) Oh, Beloved! The demons were saying (Mark 5:7) and are saying even today: **“In God’s name do not torture me!”**
- As in Mark 5, the demons are aware of the fact that they will be punished (Matt. 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev. 20:10; etc.), and knowing their fate used the strongest rationale for the oath they knew, although that their appeal to God was sarcastic (Note again Mark 5:6-7).
  - We definitely have to close this pointer but I encourage you to see Mark 1:1-28, NB Vv.23-24). **“What have we to do with you? . . .”** (Mark 1:24b NKJV).  
This (the response that we have in Mark 1:24) is similar to the demons’ response in Mark 5:6-7. The evil spirits resent the intrusion of Jesus into their domain.

**NOTE: As stated earlier I will be discussing Mark 5:1-20 in two parts. Part B will cover verses 8-20.**

### **Conclusion Part A Mark 5:1-7**

I will be closing with two review points focusing on Mark 5:2-7

#### **Mark 5: 1, 7 NKJV**

*“And when He had come out of the boat, **immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.***

*And he cried out with a loud voice and said ‘**What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”***

1. **Condition of Christ’s Greeter Upon Entering the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-5)**  
*This is a brief description of the demon possessed man. Presented without detailed discussion.*

- (a) He was demon possessed: “. . . **a man with an unclean spirit . . .**” (Mark 5:1; Matt. 8:28; Luke 8:27).
- (b) **As a reminder: Matthew’s account noted two men.** They were fierce, intimidating and greatly feared by the people: “. . . **exceedingly fierce, so that no could pass that way**” (Matt. 8:28 NKJV).
- (c) He was demon possessed for a long time: “. . . **who had demons for a long time . . .**” (Luke 8:27).
- (d) The man lived among the dead and decaying, which was contrary to Jewish law and human instinct: “. . . **who had his dwelling among the tombs; . . .**” (Mark 5:3; Luke 8:27).
- (e) He wore no clothes, lost his sense of decency and lived like a sub-normal animal: “. . . **And he wore no clothes . . .**” (Luke 8:27).
- (f) The man had supernatural strength and consistently broke free from every means of restraint: “. . . **And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broke in pieces . . .**” (Mark 5:4).
- (g) The man under the dictates of the demons and had an uncontrollable behavior: “. . . **neither could anyone tame him**” (Mark 5:4).
- (h) He continuously lived in darkness, isolation and into oblivion: “. . . **And always night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs . . .**” (Mark 5:5).
- (i) He was tormented, confused and self-destructive: “. . . **he was always shrieking and screaming and bruising and cutting himself with stones**” (Mark 5:5 Amplified Bible).

## 2. Compulsive Fear of God by Demons (Mark 5:7).

As a reminder, these pointers are highlighted comments.

The devil and his demons dread the Almighty God! In showing the necessity that faith involves much more than intellectual belief, James made a powerful presentation in James 2:14-26; at this time, I am briefly commenting on verse 19.

James 2:19 NKJV

**“You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe and tremble.”**

*James proclaims that not only do demons know the Lord is the One True and Living God, but they also shudder (shiver, tremble, etc.) in fear at the knowledge of this infallible truth. Demons know God’s superiority towards them; additionally, their knowledge of the Scriptures foretells that their fate is eternal punishment at His hand (Matt. 8:29, 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev. 19:20; 20:10).*

Let us return to Mark 5:7 briefly. See also Mark 1:23-24; Luke 4:41.

- (a) **The demons refer to God “The Most High God,” noting He is above all other gods.**

The name *El Elyon (El Elion)* in the Hebrew means **“God Most High”** . . . a term denoting that **God is “Supreme” or “Mighty One.”** (Gen. 14:18-24 NB Vv. 18-20).

**(b) They (the demons) acknowledge Jesus to be the Son of God.**

Some scholars believe that it may have been the power of the Holy Spirit that compelled them (the demon possessed) to acknowledge Christ (1 Cor. 12:3). This we do know, that eventually, **EVERYONE** will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!! (Phil 2:10-11).

**(c) They (the demons) disown any desire for Christ: “What have I to do with You?”**  
(Mark 5:7).

The demon (s) was (were) saying: *“I have no need of You; I do not pretend that I have any such need. I cannot stand before for long and do not fall!”*

**(d) The demon(s) depreciated the wrath of God.**

(1) Note these references:

- **Mark 5:7b NKJV**

*“ . . . I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”*

- **Matt. 8:29b NKJV**

*“ . . . Have You come here to torment us before the time?”*

(2) The demon (s) was (were) questioning Christ’s authority to punish them before the day of judgment (Rev. 20:10). The reality is: the demons did not want to leave the man’s body; but that was overlooking Jesus’ power and authority.

**Closing Thought Mark 5:7**

**Please Note:** Mark 5:7 & 8 are interrelated this will be clearly seen when discussing verse 8 in Part B.

The demon addressed Jesus using His name but such is not an indicator of his submission. It was a pagan belief that if you know someone’s name you can control them. **The demons aren’t just requesting Jesus to leave them alone; they are trying to wondrously force Him to make an oath in God’s name; to act according to their wishes.**

The demon told Christ not to **“torment”** him. Based on the Greek word from which we derive **“torment,”** it means **“to determine the purity of something or to use torture to get information.”** Applying such method to Christ was unnecessary because God is omniscient and has no need of forcing information from demons or anyone. He is fully aware of the demons’ heinous state.

**In a subtle way the Satanic power in these demons were trying to control Christ.**

- (a) Satan did try to defeat God (Isa. 14:12-15) taking along with him, one-third of the angels (Rev. 12:3-4 . . . **“stars”** in Rev. 12:4 is symbolic to Satan’s angels who were in his accomplice revolting against God).
- (b) As noted in Mark 5:7, these demons thought they could control Christ Jesus, in fact some scholars believe that they use the word **“legion”** (Mark 5:9) with an intimidating objective. The fact is the demon’s main intent was to influence and

control Jesus Christ in any action that He may take, but that is because they overlooked the awesomeness of His power (Job 36:22-32; Psa. 62:10-11; Rom. 1:20; etc.).

**Psalm 62:11 Amplified Bible**

*“God has spoken once, twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God.”*

The song: **How Great Is Our God**

Partial quote (NB quoted in an earlier lesson)

The splendor of a King, clothed in majesty  
Let all the Earth rejoice  
All the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
Trembles at His voice

How great is our God, sing with me  
How great is our God, and all will see  
How great, how great is our God

Age to age He stands He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the end  
Beginning and the end

**DO NOT JUST READ THE BIBLE STUDY AND OBEY IT!**

**2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV**

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

**2 Tim. 3:16 NKJV**

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

**MARK 5 SERIES – PART PART A**  
**Review Questions**

1. Complete the following:

A quote from Barnes comment on Christ adhering to the request to leave Gadarenes.

“ . . . Alas! How (a) \_\_\_\_\_ are there, like the (b) \_\_\_\_\_ in the country of the (c) \_\_\_\_\_, that (d) \_\_\_\_\_ Him to go (e) \_\_\_\_\_ a sigh; and that (f) \_\_\_\_\_, never again (g) \_\_\_\_\_ Him (h) \_\_\_\_\_ back to (j) \_\_\_\_\_ them with salvation.”

2. What contrast is evidently clear as observed in Mark 5:1-20 in comparison with Mark 5:22-43? (has to do with response to Christ).

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3. In Mark 4:1-34: (a) what three parables Christ shared, give references? (b) From these parables what two truths are emphasized?

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4. (a) Gadarenes and Gergesenes are two different places: answer Yes or No and explain your answer. (b) Was this area a predominantly Jewish area . . . briefly explain?

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5. List five characteristics of demons, give references.

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6. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.

When Christ and His party arrived in the Gadarenes the demon possessed man was fearful and hid himself.

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7. Complete by choosing the correct answer.

*One of the comments on Mark 5:2b.*

“Mark’s objective is to make it obvious that the man (Mark 5:1-20) was possessed with evil spirits (demons) and it should be noted that this possession can happen to anyone \_\_\_\_\_.”

- (a) That is committed wholeheartedly to Christ.
- (b) That is not under Christ’s protection.
- (c) That is under Christ’s ultimate protection.
- (d) That is Christ’s but struggles periodically.

8. The demon possessed man was ostracized from society and lived among the dead. As noted in our lesson, who he is said to represent; briefly explain?

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9. The citizens tried to restrain the demon possessed man but he easily broke free: (a) why was he able to so easily break these means of restraint that was used to bind him? (b) Briefly explain how his unrestrained condition is exemplified in others.

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10. How would you describe the conditions of the demon possessed man as noted in Mark 5:5b?

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11. As noted in Mark 5:7b: (a) Who was actually addressing Christ? (b) Were the demons desirous of leaving the man's body; . . . briefly explain?

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12. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.  
“Demons are aware of the fact that they will be punished.”

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13. We itemized some facts about the demon possessed man as noted in Mark 5:1-20; Matt. 8:23-34 and Luke 8:26-39. List five of these areas with references.

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14. Briefly explain the message noted in James 2:19 (as it relates to demons).

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15. Give one example of how the demon tried to intimidate and control Christ . . . as noted in our lesson (Mark 5:1-20).

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