

MARK 5 SERIES

DEVILS CAST OUT; DISEASE HEALED; DEAD RAISED

Mark 5 Part 1: Impossible to be Restrained --- Jesus Intervened! (Mark 5:1-20)

Today's Study: Mark 5:8-20 Part B

1. Help Comes from the Lord Vv. 8-13.
2. Healed . . . Normalcy Experienced! Horrified Citizens! Vv. 14-17.
3. Heeding the Request to Leave . . . Instructions Given to the Man Healed Vv. 18-20.

INTRODUCTION

1. Highlights from Part A – Mark 5:1-7.

We commenced Mark 5, observing Jesus' encounter with a demonic, who horrified his neighbors, howling among the tombs, where he lived. The Satanic powers that possessed him tyrannized and made him abused himself.

(a) Historical Setting (Background) Mark 5:1.

- (1) Christ left the territory of Galilee (see Mark 4:35-41), to go to the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1).
- (2) The country of the Gadarenes (Matt. 8:28), noted as Gergesenes is one of the few areas Jesus visited where Gentiles composed the majority of the population.
- (3) Predominantly, a Gentile area but Jesus' power even over evil spirits extend beyond the country of the Jews into the Gentile world. Nothing is beyond His reach!

(b) Hopelessly Possessed, Tyrannized and Feared by Everyone Mark 5:2-5.

- (1) Upon their arrival in the Gadarenes, they were met by a strange-like man, who approached them running from among the tombs.
- (2) This demon-possessed man represents the man who is not spiritual, the man who is not possessed and controlled by God and His Spirit (Rom. 8:14-16; etc.).
- (3) 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.
- (4) In this situation (Mark 5, noting v. 5), we have a portrayal of those who, *“ . . . loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil”* (John 3:19).
- (5) His demonic possession made him very strong and ungovernable; *“ . . . no man could bind him, . . .”* (Mark 5:3); control was necessary both for their (the citizens) good and for the safety of others (Matt. 8:28).

- (6) The demon-possessed man was stripped of all his basic human instincts and public decorum and the basic necessities.
- (7) He stayed naked (see Luke 8:27): he represents the old man (Rom. 6:6; Col. 3:1-17, NB Vv. 5-9) who stands naked before the eyes of God and who needs to be clothed with the righteousness of God and with garments of the new man (Rom. 13:14; 2 Cor. 5:1-2, 17-21; etc.).
- (8) Note that this man (Mark 5:1-5) 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.

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

- (1) We are seeing at this point (Mark 5:6-7), a man who was desperately aroused!
 - He was fearfully aroused by the Son of God.
 - There was, is and will always be that compelling attraction produced by Christ's presence! Yes, some will repel but the multitudes will still be attracted to Him!
- (2) The demon in the man not only addressed Christ as the Son of God but was overcome with dread of being punished (Mark. 5:7; James 2:19).
- (3) Demons also attack men because they hate the image of God in man. They attack that image (i.e., *"the image of God: moral, spiritual and intellectual nature* (Gen. 1:27); by debasing man and making him distorted – just as they did to this man in the country of the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-20).
- (4) As seen in Mark 5:1-20, demons are aware that they will be punished (Matt. 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev. 20:10), and knowing their fate they used the strongest rationale for an oath, they knew the reality of their fate, although their appeal to God was sarcastic (Note again Mark 5:6-7).

2. **Evil Spirits/Demons/Devils is an Area Many Pulpits Ignore – Yet This is Spiritual Warfare!! There is No time to Slacken Our Hands!!**

The following is a lengthy quote but worthwhile noting. Taken from The Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible (P. O. S. B.). They listed ten traits of evil spirits as seen in Luke 8:28-31, that corresponds with Matt. 8:29-31 and Mark 5:2-5.

This quote although **partial**, presents both a brief review of verses we discussed and a brief preview of some remaining pointers.

- (a) *"Evil spirits are enemies of man for a long period of time. They take hold of a man, controlling his faculties and causing him to act abnormally, hurting both himself and others.*
- (b) *Evil spirit cause men to lose their sense of shame and conscience. This man was driven to run around naked. The point is, evil spirits destroy man's sense of*

modesty, privacy, intimacy, and respect. Evil spirits cause men to enjoy the attention of public exposure and embarrassment of others.

(c) **Evil spirits cause alienation, the loss of all friends and social life!**

*They lead a man to be **cut off**, ostracized from others.*

They often force a man to withdraw into himself and away from others, including immediate families; or they cause society to push the man away, forcing him to live alone or with others like himself.

Evil spirits often destroy a man by making him live as it were among the dead, among those who have no contact with the world of living men. This is seen in this man being forced to live among the tombs of the dead.

(d) **Evil spirits are enraged against the Lord.** they knew that Jesus was the Son of God (Matt. 8:28; Mark 5:7 . . . insert mine) (. . . the Holy One of God . . .).

They also opposed Him and feared Him (. . . Mark 1:23-24; 5:6; Matt. 8:31; James 2:19).

(e) **Evil spirits seize men.** *Their influence and unrestrained nature, seem to come and go, to lay calmly and then to break forth in violence.*

(f) **Evil spirits hate, restraint and cause men to mistreat and oppose others.** *They drive men to struggle against morality and justice and against being governed, restricted and disciplined.*

(g) **Evil spirits take away a man's name, his identity, and his recognition.** *They deprive a person of purpose, meaning, and significance.*

(h) **Evil spirits are numerous and formidable.** . . . Legion . . . This definitely indicates that the man's case was desperate; the evil spirits in him were formidable, just as a military legion was formidable.

(i) **Evil spirits desire a body to inhabit for the purpose of working evil.** *They desire to be malicious, violent, and destructive.*

(1) They were indwelling and hurting the man physically, mentally and spiritually.

(2) They wished (if exorcised from the human body) to hurt other men by damaging their property.

(j) **Evil Spirits are subject to the Lord's power.** *Christ had the power of His Word. The devil's power may be great, but the Word of Christ is omnipotent, for all power belongs to Him.*

(Emphasis mine).

EXPOSITION Mark 5:8-20

Part A: Mark 5:1-7

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

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

C. Hounded by Demons . . . Identified Jesus Christ Mark 5:6-7.

Part B: Mark 5:8-20

D. Help Comes from the Lord! Mark 5:8-13

1. Command Given to the Demon (Mark 5:8).

“For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” (5:8 NKJV).

(a) The time for this man’s liberation had come and Jesus addressed his situation with authority.

(b) Some scholars combine Mark 5, verses 6-8.

What is observed here is that the demons who had enslaved this man for a long time recognized the power of Jesus Christ and knew their fate.

The Message Bible also combine verses 6-8

“. . . (Jesus had just commanded the tormenting evil spirit, “Out! Get out of the man!”) (v. 8).

(c) The word of command that Christ gave to the unclean spirit, was to relinquish his possession (v. 8): **“Come out of the man, unclean spirit”** (NKJV).

(1) Christ made the man desirous to be relieved, it is no wonder that upon Christ’s approach he ran and worshipped Him; now we are witnessing the demonstration of His power to set the captive free!

(2) Beloved, if Christ instills that desire in us to earnestly seek deliverance from Satan, He will work for us to bring it about!!

(3) Jesus Christ, has the power and the authority to command evil spirits and they will obey Him (example see Mark 1:27).

(4) Matthew Henry notes:

*“He said, ‘**Come out of the man!**’ The design of Christ’s gospel is to expel unclean spirits out of the soul of people, ‘**Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit, that the Holy Spirit may enter, may take possession of the heart, and have dominion in it!**’”*

2. Clarification of the Demon Sought (Mark 5:9).

“Then He asked him, ‘What is your name?’ And he answered, saying, ‘My name is legion; for we are many’” (5:9 NKJV).

(a) Christ being God was not ignorant of the fact that the man had many demons. Beloved, Christ could have called all the stars by name. He, Christ, made such enquiry that the nature of the man’s possession might be known!

(b) Christ, hereby (Mark 5:9) reveals the man’s great need and the nature of his demonic possession. He also led the evil spirit to identify himself. . . . definitely, beloved, Divine work of deliverance was in process!!

(c) The demon’s reply to Christ: **“My name is legion; for we are many.”**

The evil spirit said his name was **“legion.”** A legion was the largest unit of the Roman army, some say that they consisted of 3,000 to 6,000 men (scholars vary as to how many). **The many demons reflect the chaotic state of the man’s mind!**

(d) This response from the demon (Mark 5:9), indicates several factors about the evil spirits and their devilish powers. Note the following, briefly stated:

(1) **Military powers**, as noted above, a legion is a number of Roman soldiers; **believed to have been consisted of between 3,000 to 6,000 men (scholars vary as to the actual number); (NOTE: There were 2,000 swine – Mark 5:13)**

- Beloved, we should never lose focus of the reality that we are engaged in “spiritual warfare!” (Eph. 6:10-11; 2 Cor. 10:4-5; etc.); against a host of evil and formidable enemy.
 - Beloved! Satan and his evil spirits war against God and His gospel; he will do anything to hinder men from living a life of holiness and happiness. It is these continuous attacks that we, the saints of God, are to consistently defend and resist the devil (1 Peter 5:8-9; Eph. 6:12).
- (2) **The evil spirits noted that they are numerous, something he, the devil, seems to boast about – “we are many!”**
- We get the idea that he (the demon) was trying to persuade Christ that they were too many for him to handle!!
 - Indeed, there are multitudes of apostate spirits and they are the enemies of both God and man. In our text (Mark 5:9), observe that a **legion** was posted as security and in certain respects we the believers do have many sources of opposition! **Many they are that rise up against us!! See 2 Kings 6:8-17, NB Vv. 16-17)**
- (3) **Note that the demons are unanimous (in complete agreement); they are also many and unitedly they have the same evil objectives.**
- The unity of the demons (Mark 5:9) prove the fallacy of the Pharisees, in their envious assertion that Christ: “. . . **cast out demons . . . by Beelzebub.**” (NOTE: Beelzebub: “*prince of the devils*”). See Matt. 12:22-37, NB Vv. 24-26).
Such groundless rhetoric was vain because it would mean division and as seen for example in our text, demons are united in their evil objectives.
 - It may have been a legion but they were in one accord; no one betrayed the rest. Note the answer given to Christ’s question (Mark 5:9) was: “**My name is legion, for we are many.**” (5:9).
NOTE also in **Mark 5:6**, although they are numerous evidently easily seen is the harmony among them: “**What have I to do with You**” . . . also “**I implore You . . .**” That was what they all wanted.
- (4) **The evil spirits are very powerful; who can stand before a legion?**
- On our own, in our own strength, we are not a match against our spiritual enemies; the sons of Sceva found out the hard way!! (Acts 19:13-16 . . . I recommend that you read verses 11-22).
 - Even though they are legions, we shall be able to stand against them by following the guidelines . . . **a few reminders are:**
 - The battle is NOT our but the LORD’S, we must be strong in Him (1 Sam. 17:47; Eph. 6:10-18).
 - We are not fighting against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12-17).
 - The weapons of our warfare are not carnal (2 Cor. 10:4).
 - We must pursue the challenge in the power of God’s might (Eph. 6:10; Psa. 27:1 Isa. 40:29)

- Never, never forget that **“Greater is He that is us than he that is in the world!!” (1 John 4:4).**

3. **Consistently, plead with Christ . . . Based on His (The Demon’s) Term** (Mark 5:10). *“And he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.”* (5:10 NKJV).

(a) In the Book of Mark, we observe that he (Mark) often highlights the supernatural struggle between Jesus and Satan.

(1) **Mark 1**

- An Unclean Spirit Rebuked.
 - While Christ was preaching the unclean spirit interrupted (Vv. 23-24).
 - Note also the demon verbally identified Christ (v. 24).
 - The demon was silenced and commanded to come out of the man (v. 25).
- The Diseased and Demon Possessed Were Healed (Vv. 29-39, NB v. 32).

(2) **Mark 3**

- Unclean Spirit Silenced and Cast Out (Vv. 11-12, read Vv. 7-12).
- The Scribes Associated Christ with Beelzebub (Vv. 22-23).

(3) **Mark 5**

Our current study. In essence: Christ Authority Over Demons (Vv. 1-20).

(4) **Mark 9**

Healing the Boy with An Evil Spirit (9:14-29, NB Vv. 18, 20-25)

(b) **Returning to our study passage:** the demon was not only requesting but passionately pleading to Christ.

Mark 5:10 Amplified Bible

“And he kept begging Him urgently not to send them [himself and the other demons] away out of the region.”

- (1) The demon’s goal was to control the human they inhabited; Jesus’ goal was to give people freedom from sin and Satan’s control.
- (2) The demons knew that they had no power over Jesus and they were fearful of their eternal fate. Facing the reality of their situation, they desperately begged Jesus not to send them to some distance place (Mark 5:10 . . . in reality, going to the **“Abyss”** or the **“Bottomless Pit”** See Luke 8:31; Rev. 9:1).

4. **Continue Making His Desperate Request!** (Mark 5:11-12).

“Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So, all the demons begged Him saying, ‘Send us to the swine that we may enter them.’” (5:11-12 NKJV).

(a) According to the Old Testament law, to the Jews, pigs were unclean. This meant that they were not to be eaten or even to be touched by the Jews (Lev. 11:7-8; etc.).

- (1) This incident (Mark 5:1-20) took place southeast of the Sea of Galilee in the region of the Gadarenes; this was predominantly a Gentile region, which explains how a herd of pigs (swine) could be involved.

- (2) The demons requested of Christ to be sent into the herd of swine and not to the bottomless pit. Even in such situation, we clearly see the destructive nature of evil spirits.
- (b) Clearly demonstrated here (Mark 5:10-12) is Satan's limited power and Christ's superiority. Notice that the demon **begged** (beseech, intreat, etc.) (See verses 10 and 12).
- (1) We are specifically told that demons believe and tremble (James 2:19 . . . noted before).
- (2) We also saw before that the demons greatest fear was that he along with others would eventually be sent to the Abyss (The Bottomless Pit . . . see Rev. 9:1-2; 20:1-10, NB Vv. 1-3).
- (c) In regards to the demons' request (Mark 5:11-12) Spurgeon notes:
"Satan would rather vex swine than do no mischief at all. He is so fond of evil that he would work upon animals if he cannot work upon men." (Emphasis mine).
5. **Complied With . . . Exorcism Done by Christ** (Mark 5:13).
"And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea and drowned in the sea" (5:13 NKJV).
- (a) **Note:** ". . . **Jesus gave them permission . . .**": Christ did not command them to do this, but instead **"gave them permission . . ."** . . . He allowed them.
- (1) Jesus was in control and did not allow the demons to continue controlling the man or go and possess other human beings.
- (2) Notice that demons can't even afflict pigs without permission from God.
Adam Clarke Notes:
*"Since a demon cannot enter even into a **swine** without being sent by God Himself, how little is the **power** or **malice** of them to be dreaded by those who have God for their portion and protector."*
- (b) At this point (Mark 5:13), Christ did not put the demons entirely out of action because the time of the total demonstration of His authority over demons had not yet come – it would come at the cross. **Note the following, briefly stated:**
- (1) **"Principalities and powers"** In reference to this phrase see for example **Col. 2:15**. Reading verses 1-15, you will get a better understanding of what is addressed by this phrase. The devil and his demonic angels did their worse to Christ when He died on the cross. However, when He arose from the dead, **He made a public spectacle of them (Col. 2:15) and their inability to conquer.**
- Col. 2:15 also assures us that the victory through the cross means that Jesus disarmed demons in their attacks on believers; He **"made a bold display and public example of them, triumphing over them ..."** (Col. 2:15 Amplified Bible).

- Satan and his hosts must have had a grand celebration when Christ was nailed to the cross but through it, He demonstrated His power and authority over Satan and his demons!!
 - The devil and his angels must have believed that they had finally got rid of Christ and their moment of triumph had finally arrived; their tormentor was now out of the way.
 - Christ proved His Divinity and authority over **all** conditions by His triumph over death!

Life Application Study Bible

"In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross"
(Col. 2:15).

- (2) Jesus **"gave them permission . . ."** (the demons Mark 5:12-13) but defeat their purpose; when the **swine** drowned the demons making it impossible to repossess anyone.
- The demons created such upheaval in the 2,000 pigs (Mark 5:13) that they **"ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea"** (5:13 NKJV).
 - By doing so, Jesus brought to light their destructive nature and His omnipotence (Matt. 15:28; Mark 1:26, 34; Acts 5:16; 16:18; etc.).
- (3) Another important thought to note:
Although Jesus seemingly consented to the demon's request, the pigs carried the demons into the depths of the sea – perhaps symbolic of the abyss (Rev. 9:1-12; 17:8; 20:1; etc.)
- (c) The destruction of the herd of swine: This has been a matter of much debate and various interpretations. It must be noted that Christ did not kill the pigs. Definitely, He knew that they would be killed; however, the evil spirits were the ones who drove them over the cliff into the sea (5:12).
- (1) Beloved, it is the nature of demons to destroy! Satan, indeed comes to rob, steal and destroy (John 10:10).
- (2) The evil spirits were malicious and violent; they were determined to destroyer! They destroyed the herd of swine!
- (d) There are several possible reasons why Christ allowed the owners of the pigs to suffer loss (*These I can only list without details; the comments are based on Matthew's account in Matt. 8:28-34*) . . . Quoted from The Preacher's Outline & Study Bible.
- (1) *"It was a visible sign that the two possessed men were truly saved and freed from the evil spirits."* (Reminder: Matthew noted two men Matt. 8:28 . . . insert mine).
- (2) *It was to convince those who did not believe in evil spirits, that there are definitely evil spirits who do possess bodies.*

- (3) *It was to teach obedience and holiness. . . . If the owners were Jews (and they probably were), they were sinning against the law. Jesus was thereby teaching that His presence demand holiness and obedience to the law.*
- (4) *It was to teach the value of a human soul. The two possessed men were of far more value than any amount of material wealth, and even more so if the wealth was gained by illegal means.*
- (5) *It was to attract the attention and open the door for evangelization of the surrounding district.*
- (6) *It was to drive home Jesus' emphasis on holiness and to arouse the people to acknowledge it; thereby the seeking and honest heart would be open for salvation.*
- (7) *It was to awaken covetous men to the fact that they were gripped with greed. They were doomed unless they forsook their material possessions and turned to the Messiah (Matt. 19:16-26).*
- (8) *It was to show the true nature of evil spirits."*
- (e) As noted, before, the discussion on this subject, "The destruction of the swine" can go in great details; however, I will close this pointer on the destruction of property by Jesus with the following:
Whatever conclusion we may decide on; in any case, the character of Christ guarantees that He would do nothing unjust. The actions of God may not be judged by the standard of men. If we knew more, we would understand better.

E. Healed . . . Normalcy Experienced! Horrified Citizens! Mark 5:14-17.

1. Fear Expressed! Account of the Healing Canvassed! (Mark 5:14).

"So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country, and they went out to see what it was that happened" (5:14 NKJV).

(a) ***"So those who fed the swine . . ." (5:14 NKJV) . . . " . . . The hog feeders . . ."***
 (Amp. Bible).

(1) The swine were doubtless owned by the inhabitants of the Gadarenes.

- We do not know whether the owners were Jews or Gentiles.
- As stated, before the Jews were forbidden to have anything to do with swine (Lev. 11:7-8); neither were they supposed to keep swine for business.

(2) ***If the Jews kept swine for any reason, it would be a violation, so most likely, the swine were owned by Gentiles, yet fact such is not known.***

(b) The keepers of the swine were overwhelmed by the manifested power of Christ.

- (1) They were not the owners; the whole herd had been destroyed and this was a huge and devastating loss, financially. The keepers of the herd hastened to notify the owners of what had occurred, lest they be charged of being negligent and held responsible.
- (2) They excitedly ran to town and the country side canvassing the phenomenon with much emotion but their proclamation was not done in faith.

- (3) The owners of the swine and the citizens instantly went to the scene in order to authenticate the facts themselves.

2. **Finding the Facts Given to Be accurate They were Overcome by Fear** (Mark 5:15-16).

“Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine” (5:15-16 NKJV).

(a) **Investigative committee now on the scene** (Mark 5:15a)

“Then they came to Jesus . . .” (5:15a NKJV).

- (1) This was the reasonable action necessary; the owners of the swine and the city folks conducted an investigation; so, they came to Jesus for clarifications.
- (2) The reality is, their loss would have been nothing in comparison to what they would have received upon their acceptance of Christ and as noticed in the end they finally did not receive Him.

(b) **Indisputable evidence of triumph over evil!**

*“. . . and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, **sitting and clothed and in his right mind** . . .” (5:15b NKJV).*

What the investigative committee saw was stunning and somewhat difficult to believe but the facts could not be denied.

Note three facts in Mark 5:15b

(1) **Sitting . . . not being a terror to himself and others.**

- He was **sitting**, not ramping (rushing about uncontrollable) and raging (showing violent uncontrollable anger) like a wild animal, who roamed ceaselessly, up and down, night and day, creating havoc and confusion and fear (Matt. 8:28; Luke 8:27; Mark 5:4-5).
- He was sitting and acting like a normal person; he was calm, and collective. He was no more a terror but was composed and cool as a cucumber!

(2) **Suitable clothed! What an outstanding difference!!**

- Previously, he ripped to shreds every piece of clothing and remained naked (Luke 8:27).
- Previously, he raged among the tombs wearing no clothing; just like those who Satan has stripped and left naked and exposed to his tyranny and eternal doom (Ex. 32:25; Rev. 3:17; 2 Cor. 5:1-3, NB v. 3).
- The Message Bible
“. . . and saw the madman sitting there wearing decent clothes . . .” (Mark 5:15b).
- The NIV
“. . . sitting there dressed . . .” (Mark 5:15b).

- **Beloved, what a great difference Jesus makes in our lives: He not only removed the rags of our sins but clothe our nakedness in His**

righteousness! He did it for Israel, He will do it for anyone who comes to Him (Zech. 3:3-4 ... *“Joshua” in v. 3 refers to “Israel”*; see also John 15:3; 1 Cor. 6:11; etc.).

- Such deliverance means, no more wandering about in our nakedness and shame. Adam and Eve tried their way but ONLY God’s way is the prescribed way to healing and victory! (Gen. 3:7, 21; . . . see also Isa. 61:10; Ezek. 16:8; Eph. 6:14; Rev. 19:6-8; etc.).

(3) **Sound mind, he was now mentally healthy!**

Note: (the demon-possessed man) was “. . . in his right mind” (Mark 5:15b) or “had a sound mind!” Also note two important words associated with “sound mind.” (“sophroneo” and “phroneo”).

- **First:** The Greek/Hebrew for “*sophroneo*” means “**to be of sound mind, that is sane.**” It also carries the meaning of “**to be saved or delivered.**” It suggests something that is delivered, rescued, received, salvaged and protected and is now safe and secure.
- **Second:** Another word of interest is “*phroneo*,” which carries the idea of a person’s intelligence or total frame of thinking – including his rationale, logics and emotions.

The word *phroneo* refers to every part of the human mind including all the process that are engaged in making the mind function and comes to conclusions.

*To briefly add to the definitions above, we may note that “sound mind” also refers to: **have understanding; to be wise; to feel, to think; etc.***

Beloved, this demon-possessed man, through the miraculous touch of Jesus experienced total deliverance and was restored to being a normal person after such long bondage by the evil spirits!!

(c) **Intimidated (frightened, amazed) by the good done.**

“. . . And they were afraid. . . .” (Mark 5:15c).

- (1) Previously, this man was a terror and a threat to himself and everyone (Matt. 8:28; Mark 5:3-5; Luke 8:27, 29). He was in such an awful state because he was under the control of the demons that possessed him.

This raging uncontrollable demon-possessed man who created great fear among the citizens (Matt. 8:28) was now completely delivered but as noted here, the same terrified citizens seeing him in his right mind yet “**they were afraid**”! (Mark 5:15c).

- (2) It is not unusual that the powerful works of Jesus bring about amazement and awe to those who looked on.

- Let’s remember that the disciples “**feared exceedingly**” when they witnessed the stilling of the storm while on the Sea of Galilee (Mark 4:35-41, NB v. 41).
- The awe-inspiring effect of Divine occurrences have caused men to tremble and become fascinated in the presence of God.
 - Moses obediently took off his shoe before the burning bush (Ex. 3:5).

- Isaiah beholding the holiness, etc. of God cried out: **“Woe is me . . .”** (Isa. 6:5).
- In the glory-filled Temple and when John saw the glorified Christ, he **“fell at His feet as dead . . .”** (Rev. 1:17).

(3) **“They were afraid”** (the citizens Mark 5:15c): They were awed (astonished, amazed, etc.) as in the presence of God and indeed they were because Jesus is God!!

- The word “afraid” does not necessarily mean “fear” that any evil would happen to them (although in the final outcome we will see their unfortunate decision). Seemingly, there was an awe; they felt that God was there; and were struck with astonishment at what Jesus had done; and yes, there was some resentment.
- Matthew Henry notes:
“When they saw how wonderfully the poor man was cured, they hence conceived veneration for Christ. They saw Him that was well enough, by the same token that they had many a time been frightened at the sight of him; and were now as much surprised to see him sitting, clothed and in his right mind; when Satan was cast out, he came to himself, and was his own man presently.”
- Matthew Henry also notes:
“Those who are grave (earnest, solemn, etc. . . . insert mine) and sober and live by rule and with consideration, thereby make it appear evidently clear that by the power of Christ the devil’s power is broken in their souls.”

(d) **In-depth account seemingly repeated** (Mark 5:16).

“And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine” (5:16 NKJV).

(1) As noted in verse 14, the keepers of the swine had given their report to the owners and as a result secured themselves from being charged wrongfully by the owners.

(2) **Most likely**, the report what we have here in verse 16 is a repetition of what had transpired and as reported before (see verse 14). Note:

- **The Amplified Bible:**
“And those who had seen it related in full what had happened . . .” (v. 16).
- This additional evidence gave credence (acceptance, credibility, etc.) to what was reported earlier. The witnesses noted here were actually first hand witnesses of what had transpired when Christ delivered the demon-possessed man.

3. **Firm Decision Made . . . Jesus was to Leave Their Country** (Mark 5:17).

“Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their reign” (5:17 NKJV).

(a) It was such a wonderful miracle, saving a man’s life. It was a great benefit for the community to be free from that disturbing situation. They must have been

thankful that some serenity will be returned to their neighborhood. That level of appreciation, unfortunately, soon fades away!

- (1) Some scholars believe that part of their fear was found in the fact that their superstitions were shattered, and they didn't know what to make of it all. According to their superstitions the demons should have had the upper hand over Jesus – but they didn't. They (the people) had a hard time accepting this.
 - (2) **Another fact to note: They were probably more concerned about their financial loss than about the deliverance of the miserable demon-possessed man.**
 - (3) When they considered the loss of their swine, they conceived a dislike of Christ, and desired of Him to leave because He was not welcome in their country.
- (b) They made an irrational request being determined to have Christ leave (Mark 5:17).
Note also: “. . . **for they were seized with great fear . . .**” (Luke 8:37 NKJV).
- (1) Seems like they also believed that Christ's Divine power was unpredictable and were afraid of Him.
 - (2) **They were gripped with fear, not the fear of reverence and humility, but the fear of dread and hatred that He (Jesus Christ) had cause so much loss and they also feared that He might punish them.**
 - (3) Before, they didn't mind having a demon-possessed man in their midst. However, they did mind having Jesus around, so they asked Him to leave!!
- (c) They developed an attitude of covetousness and rejection for Jesus.
- (1) They felt that they had nothing in common with Jesus. When they saw Him, they saw only a man stand in their midst who had destroyed their property.
 - (2) **They were blind to the glorious work of salvation; brought to the demon-possessed man and the beautiful blessings that they could experience through Jesus Christ!**
 - (3) As a result of their negative attitude to Christ, their only alternative they saw was to expel Him.
 - The covetous did not come to be saved by the Messiah but to expel Him. In reality, they had no real desire for Him.
 - They expelled Him who had power to expel evil forces that gripped their lives and that was leading them down the road to material destruction.
 - (4) David Guzik notes:
“When people are more afraid of what Jesus will do in their lives than what Satan does in the moment, they often push Jesus away.”

F. Heeding the Request to Leave . . . Instructions Given to the Man Healed Mark 5:18-20.

1. Preparing to Leave Gadarenes (Mark 5:18)

“And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him” (5:18 NKJV).

(a) The end product of their irrational request was tragic! . . . Jesus did exactly what they asked: **He left!!**

- (1) In this situation, the devils had just what the people wanted. They had caused the people to reject Jesus, choosing instead the riches of the world rather than choosing Jesus.
 - They feared further loss and saw it best to get rid of Christ. They may have believed that other pigs would be lost . . . such was their livelihood!
 - They would rather give up Jesus than lose their source of income and security.
 - See **1 John 2:15-16**; Matt. 16:26; Col. 3:2; Titus 2:12.
- (2) God has never forced anyone to enjoy the plan that He has for them!! (Deut. 30:15-16; 2 Chron. 7:14; etc.). We must exercise our God-given will (Isa. 1:18; 55:1; Matt. 11:28-30; etc.). **Jesus freely granted these people, citizens of Gadarenes (Mark 5:14-18), their request.**
 - Jesus will grant our request to be left alone and to go our own way, but the result will be **“leanness of soul” and rejection of God** (Psa. 106:15).
 - See Matt. 10:33; Mark 8:38; Isa. 55:2; etc.
- (3) Despite the citizen’s (of Gadarenes) rejection of Christ, a most powerful and irrefutable testimony was done there: **“ . . . he who was demon-possessed . . .”** (Mark 5:18) **has been delivered!! Made whole!! Clothed in his right mind!!**
- (4) **“ . . . is now completely delivered and made whole!!”**

Spurgeon notes:

“He who had been demon-possessed”: *That is a striking name for a man, ‘he had been possessed with the devil.’ It would stick to him as long as he lived, and it would be a standing sermon wherever he went. He would be asked to tell the story of what he used to be and how the change came about. What a story for any man to tell!”*

- (b) A sharp contrast is observed between the citizens and the man delivered from demon-possession.
 - (1) The people of the city made an evil request, they asked Christ to leave and He did! The man who was delivered from demon-possession expressed his deep desire to be with Christ.
 - (2) The man was naturally thankful and very appreciative! His thankfulness was expressed in the desire for continued fellowship with Jesus!! (John 14:23; 17:23; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 12:12; 1 John 1:3).

2. Permission to Accompany Christ Not Granted . . . Go and Proclaim! (Mark 5:19).

“However, Jesus did not permit him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.’”

- (a) The man, delivered from demon-possession, wanted to accompany Jesus to be with Him, but Jesus saw something unique in the man, something that would make him a dynamic evangelist among his own people.

(1) For this man the call to follow Jesus and witness for Him was a command to **go home** and tell his experience of the power and love of God.

Sometimes home is the most needed place to witness for Christ.

- Time wouldn't allow for details but although man tries to dismantle the essence of the family, it remains the bedrock of society. God promises His protection over the home to bless the people who live in our home, etc. (example see Psa. 147:11-14; etc.).
- The home must be won for Christ and remains the focal point and the backbone of society. The home is where the necessary foundations are laid, and built upon . . . for example: Timothy's exposure (2 Tim. 1:1-7, NB v. 5).
- See also Deut. 6:4-9, NB v. 7; 1 Tim. 5:4, 8; Titus 2:4-5; etc.

(2) **Jesus did not allow the man to follow Him because he had a more important ministry with his family and community.**

- It is possible that the man delivered from demon-possession may have feared the evil spirits would repossess him or he may simply need instructions; just how was it possible for him to function without Christ's presence!!
- What we have seen here in Mark 5:18-19 (NB v. 19) is a marked contrast to Jesus' exhortation **not to reveal who He was**:
 - After confirming to His disciples that He indeed was the Messiah (Matt. 16:20; Mark 8:29-30; Luke 9:20-21).
 - When He healed a leper (Matt. 8:1-4; Mark 1:40; Luke 5:12-15). The man, however, did not comply.
- In our text, Mark 5:19, the healed demon-possessed man was a in Gentile territory, where there was little danger that the Messianic idea about Jesus might be circulated and the crowds thronged Jesus.

(b) We are never going to understand the ways of God!

The people of the city made an evil request: they began to plead with Christ to depart from the region, and Jesus answered their prayer.

The man **who had been demon-possessed** made a godly request: **that he might be with Him**, and Jesus said no to that prayer.

(1) As noted, before, it was necessary for the man to remain, in order to be a light among the people of these Gentile cities in a way that Jesus and His disciples could not. It would also help the man to be assured that even with Jesus' departure the demons would not repossess him.

(2) Spurgeon notes:

"Perhaps, too, his prayer was not answered, lest his fear should have been sanctified. If he did fear, and I feel morally certain that he did, that the devils would return, then of course, he longed to be with Christ. But Christ took that fear from him, and as good as say to him, 'You do not need to be near Me; I have so healed you that you never be sick again.'"

- (3) Beloved, those who drove Jesus from their shores would consequently have a messenger preaching in His place.
- (4) Beloved, by sending the man away with this good news, Jesus was expanding His ministry to people who were not Jews.

3. Proclaiming the Story of His Miracle (Mark 5:20).

“And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him and all marveled” (5:20 NKJV).

(a) Brief note on **“Decapolis.”**

“Decapolis” literally means “The Ten Cities” (One of these cities was Gadarenes). These ten cities (towns) were located south-east of the Sea of Galilee.

Ten cities, each with its own independent government, formed an alliance for protection and for increased trade opportunities. They formed a group because of their language, culture, religion, location, and political status. Although Jews lived in the area, they were not in the majority.

(b) This man had been demon-possessed but became a living example of Jesus’ power.

(1) The man became a channel of joy, proclaiming all over the country ***all that Jesus had done for him*** (Mark 5:20).

(2) Courageously, but vigorously, the ex-demoniac, in obedience to Christ’s instructions; filled with joy he went about testifying of his God-given deliverance!!

(3) Jesus was forbidden to continue His ministry among the Gadarenes; He needed someone to carry on His work, so He commissioned the new believer who did not hesitate but took up the task and went into action!

- His indisputable testimony aroused amazement: ***“. . . and all the people were astonished and marveled. [Matt.4:25]”*** (Mark 5:20 Amp. Bible).
- This is a debt we owe both to Christ and to our brethren, that He may be glorified and they edified and definitely some will be saved!!

(c) Spurgeon notes:

“He was told to publish what great things the Lord had done for him. He went and published what great things Jesus had done for him. Did He make any mistake? Oh, no! It is but another name for the same person: for Jesus is Lord; and when we speak of Him as Divine, and talk of Him in terms fit only for God, you do but speak rightly; for so He deserves to be praised.”

(1) Oh, Beloved! Just as we would tell others about a doctor who cured a physical disease, we should tell the good news about Christ who cures our sins!

(2) Oh, that we would tell it wherever we go! If you have experienced Jesus’ power in your life, are you, like this man (Mark:20), enthusiastically sharing the Good News with those around you?

Mark 16:15-16 Amplified Bible

“And He said to them, ‘God into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”

Tell it Wherever You God

By C. Harold Lowden . . . Partial Quote

Verse 1

If you ‘ve heard the wondrous story
Of the Savior and His love,
Tell it wherever you go.
If you’ve felt the thrill of glory
When He touched you from above,
Tell it wherever you go.

Refrain

Tell it, tell it wherever you go,
Many souls are longing for the good things you know;
Some one’s hope of heaven rests on words you may bestow:
Tell it wherever you go.

Verse 4

Life at best is very fleeting,
Death and judgment swift and sure,
Tell it wherever you go.
E’en the word that you’ve forgotten
May s place in heav’n secure,
Tell it wherever you go.

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

2 Tim. 2:15 NKJV

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

2 Tim. 3:16-17 NKJV

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

MARK 5 - PART 1 PART B

Review Questions

1. Note briefly, three characteristics of evil spirits.

2. As noted in Mark 5:8: (a) what command Christ gave to the unclean spirit? (b) In essence what does it mean (the command)?

3. Complete the following . . . a comment by Matthew Henry, based on Mark 5:8.

"He said, '**Come out of the man!**' The (a) _____ of Christ's (b) _____ is to (c) _____ unclean spirits (d) _____ of the (e) _____ of people; '(f) _____ **out of the man, thou** (g) _____ **spirit, that the** (h) _____ **Spirit may** (i) _____, **may take** (j) _____ **of the heart, and have, and have** (k) _____ **in it.**'"

4. When Christ required the demon to identify himself (Mark 5:8), what name was given, by the demon, and what are some significant factors associated with the name given (5:9)?

5. In essence what message the demons were trying to communicate to Christ especially taking in consideration the meaning of **“legion”**

6. Due to the fact that as Christians, we are engaged in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12); what are **some** helpful reminders to focus on, with references?

7. Complete by choosing the correct answer.

Thought shared on Mark 5:10.

“The demon’s goal was to control the human they inhabited; Jesus’ goal was to give people _____.”

- (a) freedom to live as they desire.
- (b) freedom to reject God and righteousness.
- (c) freedom from sin and Satan’s control.
- (d) freedom from churchy rules and regulations.

8. One associated reference used in our lesson was Col. 2:15; briefly explain its significance as related to Christ’s victory over the evil of Satan and his demonic angels.

9. Although Christ **gave permission** to the demons to enter the herd of swine, in what way He defeated their evil purpose?

10. We quoted **some possible** reasons why Christ allowed the demons to enter the swine (Mark 5:11-13); briefly list three of these reasons (*This was a quote from P. O. S. B.*).

11. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.
“The swine keepers spread the news about the demon-possessed man’s deliverance with excitement and great faith, glorifying God!”

12. As noted in Mark 5:15b, what three indispensable evidences were noted about the demon-possessed man’s complete deliverance?

13. What are some possible reasons why the citizens of Gergesenes (Gadarenes) asked Christ to leave their country?

14. Give at least two possible reasons the citizens of Gadarenes developed an attitude of covetousness and rejection of Christ.

15. Explain why it was necessary for the healed demon-possessed to remain in the Decapolis area, rather than accompanying Christ.
