

## Mark 5:1-20 – Jesus And The Demon Possessed Maniac

### Leader's Guide

February 17, 2019

- 1. Read Mark 5:1-20 to familiarize yourself with the passage. How did these verses change your thinking about about Jesus' ability to save those who are lost? Why do you think the people in this city asked Jesus to leave?**

**5** They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. <sup>3</sup> He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, <sup>4</sup> for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. <sup>7</sup> And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." <sup>8</sup> For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup> And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." <sup>10</sup> And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup> Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, <sup>12</sup> and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." <sup>13</sup> So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

<sup>14</sup> The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. <sup>17</sup> And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. <sup>18</sup> As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. <sup>19</sup> And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." <sup>20</sup> And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

**2. In Mark 5, Jesus changed the life of a demon possessed man. Changing lives from sinfulness to holiness is evidence that the transformative power of God is at work in someone's life. What do these verses teach us about the way the power of God transforms us from sinfulness to holiness? (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Colossians 3:5-7, Titus 3:3-6, Ezekiel 36:35-37)**

*Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such **were** some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (ESV)*

- This is a list of some sins that Jesus provides deliverance. Jesus saves us from sexual sin and sexual addictions, such as pornography. Jesus frees us from idols. We don't have to find our self-worth and identity from our stuff. We find our identity and self-worth from him. Jesus frees us from the sin of adultery and the practice of adultery. Jesus saves homosexuals from their sin. The homosexual lifestyle is called a sinful practice in the Bible. Jesus either gives those with homosexual desires the ability to live a sexually celibate life or he gives them the desire for a heterosexual lifestyle, which can be pursued inside of marriage between a husband and wife. Jesus frees thieves from a compulsive desire to steal and gives them a desire to work and contribute to the welfare of others. Jesus frees us from greed and the desire for more stuff. Jesus frees alcoholics from their enslavement to the bottle. Reviling is slandering someones reputation with our words. Jesus frees us from a gossiping and backbiting mouth. Jesus frees us from swindling, which means to extort others by using our position of power to take advantage of people instead of blessing people. That was the lifestyle of the Corinthians before Christ. Jesus freed them from the power and enslavement of those sinful practices.

*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. Colossians 3:5-7 (ESV)*

- In this list, Paul gives us a description of how Christians shouldn't live. Paul describes sinful practices into which Christians may stray. As Christians, through the power of Christ in us, we need to put to death the desires in this list because they are not who we were recreated to be through Jesus. This list has a particular emphasis on God freeing us from sexual sin. Sexual immorality is the Greek word *pornia* which is a junk drawer term for all kinds of sexual sin. It ranges from premarital sex to adultery to lust. Impurity means anything dirty - particularly in the area of our sexuality. This is dirty jokes, dirty pictures, anything that isn't sexually clean and pure. Evil passions are sexual desires that we shouldn't entertain because they can not be legitimately fulfilled. Passions are lusting after someone in a sexually inappropriate way. Evil desires broadens this definition to include dreams and desiring anything we can't fulfill with God's blessing. This ranges from dreaming about revenge to any fantasy we know should not take place.

*For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:3-6 (ESV)*

- Paul writes to Titus describing how Jesus changes our life. We no longer live just to fulfill our passions and pleasures, such sexual and material desires. We now live to please Christ instead of ourselves. Before Christ, we were constantly hating others and being hated by others. Satan and sin is the source of division and hatred. Jesus changes that and teaches us to love others.

*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36:25-27 (ESV)*

- This verse speaks of the way God transforms us. God gives us a new spirit. Instead of a heart that is hard to the things of God like stone, we have a heart of flesh. The spirit of God is alive in our heart and we have a desire to obey God's will.

3. **In Mark 5, we see how a former demon possessed man shared his testimony to invite many gentiles to Jesus. In Acts 26, the apostle Paul shared his testimony to invite King Agrippa to trust in Jesus. Read Acts 26. What can we learn from this chapter about how to share our testimony in a way that invites others to trust in Jesus?**

*So Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. "My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day.*

*And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities. "In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.*

*But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’ “Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.*

*For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.” And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.” But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.” Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.” Acts 26 (ESV)*

- Paul was very gracious and respectful when he spoke to Agrippa. He didn't talk down to him. When we share our testimony, we should also be gracious to others.
- Paul told the King about his life before Christ so he could understand his life after Christ. When we share our testimony, we need to tell others who we were before Jesus changed our life.
- Paul didn't make his testimony lengthy. He quickly transitioned to from how Jesus changed him to why he is compelled to share Christ.

- Paul didn't just stop with sharing his testimony. He asked King Agrippa to place his faith in Christ. It is easy to tell our story but then forget to ask others to trust in Christ and have him become part of their story.

**4. What do these verses teach us about what demons can do to us and how we can be delivered from their influence in our life? (Matthew 12:43-45, Acts 16:16-19, Mark 9:25-29, Acts 19:14-16, 1 Samuel 18:6-11, Revelation 16:13-14, 1 Timothy 4:1-3)**

*"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation." Matthew 12:43-45 (ESV)*

- When someone is freed from demonic possession or influence, that doesn't mean the footholds that demons held in someone's life will not be attacked. We can be confident that demons are persistent. They will attempt to regain ground they lost in our life. Demons return with greater strength and in greater numbers. This is why an alcoholic can expect huge temptation to relapse. That is why a drug addict can expect times of strong temptation to go back to using. That is why a porn addict can expect to find themselves doubly tempted once they finally break free from that addictive sin.

*As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. Acts 16:16-19 (ESV)*

- Demons can give people supernatural powers. The Gadarene demonic had supernatural strength. This demon gave this girl the ability to predict the future (This is only a better ability to predict the future than most of us have. Only God knows the future). While demons offer powers beyond normal human ability, with that power comes enslavement and torture, as we see in Mark 5.

*And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer." Mark 9:25-29 (ESV)*

- Demons can produce physical handicaps and sickness. It is possible unexplained sickness in some children has demonic origins. If that demonic foothold doesn't come from a child's choices, it may come from a parent's choices or some other source influencing their children.

*Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. Acts 19:14-16 (ESV)*

- Just as the Gadarene demoniac possessed supernatural strength from the demonic powers in him, this demon possessed man also possessed supernatural strength. He was strong enough to overpower seven men.

*As they were coming home, when David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" And Saul eyed David from that day on. The next day a harmful spirit from God rushed upon Saul, and he raved within his house while David was playing the lyre, as he did day by day. Saul had his spear in his hand. And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice. 1 Samuel 18:6-11 (ESV)*

- Demonic footholds begin when we choose to sin. Saul's sin was deep-seated jealousy of David rather than gratitude for God's deliverance. That opened the door to demonic control.

*And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. Revelation 16:13-14 (ESV)*

- Demons try to incite world rulers to war.

*Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 1 Timothy 4:1-3 (ESV)*

- All demons do not portray themselves as overtly frightening, like they did with the demoniac in Mark 5. Many demons try to work covertly by infiltrating a church and its leadership to lead people astray through false teaching. The false teachers in 1 Timothy were encouraging people to trust in their behavior to save them instead of their Savior to save them. They were encouraging people to think they were pleasing to God by avoiding certain foods, that were created to be enjoyed.