

Mark 5:1-20

Restored

Hey good morning RCM. So good to be with you this morning as we continue our time of worship through the word of God. This morning we are back in the book of Mark as we continue through this book 1 chapter at a time.

And just a reminder – if you aren't reading through Mark – read through Mark. My challenge and encouragement to each of you is to read 2 chapters in the Gospel of Mark each week. Read 1 reflectively (whichever chapter we just went through at RCM) and read the next chapter expectantly (the chapter we're coming up on for Sunday). And use your Scripture journal. And close your time in Mark's gospel by praying through your pen – write out a prayer to the Lord as you finish your time reading.

So keep at it. Keep going. If you miss a week – no sweat just jump right back in.

If you remember kind of these 2 main questions that Mark is writing to answer: (1) Who is Jesus and (2) How should we respond. Where we are today is that Mark is still answering for us "who is Jesus" and along the way he shows us how people respond. And what we see is that, most people reject Jesus. They were looking for the Jesus Miracle Tour – interested in the show, but not interested in more than that. But there were these 2 groups of people that respond – the desperate and the demon-possessed. Well today's message is from the story about a man possessed by demons – and how Jesus shows authority over even the spiritual realm.

And our main idea for today is: Satan is a destroyer – But Jesus is THE Great Restorer. If you have a Bible or device, go ahead and turn to Mark 5.

READ Mark 5:1-20

Demons Driven Out by Jesus

5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.^[a] **2** As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. **3** He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain— **4** because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. **5** Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. **7** And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don't torment me!" **8** For he had told him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

⁹ “What is your name?” he asked him.

“My name is Legion,” he answered him, “because we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. ¹² The demons^[b] begged him, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

¹⁴ The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg him to leave their region.

¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him but told him, “Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

PRAY.

BACKGROUND

So, this story comes right on the heels of what we looked at 2 weeks ago. Where they get into a boat, Jesus takes a nap, and a hurricane type storm kicks up. The disciples freak out – But Jesus with His words commands the wind and the sea to settle down, and they listen. And remember, the disciples left that incident with this question – “Who is this that even the wind and waves obey?”

Well they get to the other side of the sea to the region of the Gerasenes. This was a largely Gentile area along the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. And immediately they’re met by this dude that’s been possessed by demons.

Now, as we look at this story – we absolutely have to understand that **there is a spiritual war going on all around us.** (¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil ,spiritual forces in the heavens.)

There's 2 kind of temptations for us when we think about this spiritual way. The 1st is probably most common today – to try and deny that this spiritual way exists and to try and explain away everything based on what we see and know. The 2nd temptation is to try and over-spiritualize everything. We need to fight both of those temptations. And I assure you – the spiritual realm is real – even though we don't see it. And it's not something to taken lightly. But if you are a Christian – you have the Spirit of God in you – to protect you, to guide you, to lead you. In Ephesians we're told that in Christ we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit inside of you – Christian – is a guaranty of who you are in Christ. So as a Christian you don't have to read this story being fearful of somehow becoming demon possessed. It can't happen to you as a Christian.

This guy was possessed/controlled/tormented by an evil spirit. And what we see in this text – is **that he was living quite possibly the most horrible existence imaginable**. He lived in a cemetery (more comfortable among the dead than the living) – Luke tells us he had worn out his clothes (so he basically walked around naked) – he had this superhuman strength that no one could restrain him – night and day crying out and cutting himself. Probably had all kinds of crazy infections – and I don't even want to imagine how badly he smelled. And I'm guessing that – the cutting – my guess is that he was trying to kill himself as an escape.

Some of the reading I did this week – I learned that according to Jewish history – there were 4 signs of a person that had lost his or her mind:

- Walking around at night
- Spending the night at a grave
- Tearing your own clothes
- Destroying what you'd been given

Well this guy – checks all of the boxes. He was possessed by an army of demons wreaking havoc on him.

And what we need to see clearly here – is that Satan is a destroyer. **Satan is real, and he is a destroyer**. He desires the destruction of people. Jesus said in John 10 that the “thief comes to lie, kill and destroy.” And then in Matthew 10 he warns his disciples not to be afraid of people that can kill your body – instead he says fear the one who can destroy both the body and the soul.

And what I'd say – the primary way Satan is at work in the world today to destroy and kill – is through lies, distraction, false religion, etc.

But, while Satan is a destroyer – **Jesus is the GREAT Restorer**.

- Authority
 - The demons immediately recognized Jesus' authority
 - They didn't bow in worship – they bowed in submission
 - They even begged him to let them go into the pigs
 - The scripture says **Jesus gavee them permission**

- They were 100% under Jesus' authority

As soon as they went into the pigs – they were mad and ran down the hill and drowned into the sea. We can only imagine how this dude had been violently tormented by these evil spirits.

Such a huge deal though – the people from the town came to see what had happened and they find this brother sitting there, dressed and in his right mind. Jesus is the GREAT Restorer.

And we have this incredible picture of WHO JESUS IS – He is the one who has authority over all things. Authority over sickness, authority over sin, authority over the created order, authority over the Sabbath, authority over the spiritual realm. **He has 100% complete authority over all things.** The Scripture teaches that By Him, for Him, and through Him all things were created. He is in complete control, and has complete rule over everything. From the smallest of things to the greatest of things, and everything in between!

We also start to see that Jesus isn't interested in the Miracle Tour – He's interested in seeing people, all kinds of people, turn from their sin and believe – and then preach to others! Because Jesus is the Great Restorer – but He restores for a purpose!

Restored for a Purpose!

While the people of the town were terrified of Jesus – and begged him to leave – the Restored man had experienced life in Jesus that he wanted to be right where he was.

V18 – he begged Jesus that he could stay with Jesus. He realized who Jesus is, and responded in faith, and of course – wanted to stay! But Jesus didn't let him.

Jesus had a purpose for this brother. This brother who has been restored, redeemed, set free – he had a plan for him.

V19 – 2 commands – really simple commands – Go home, and report! I was reading this week about this story – and one of the authors personalized this story – just saying try and imagine the homecoming that this brother experienced. We don't know the details of this brother's home life. Did he have a wife and kids? How long had he been without seeing them. What was that first embrace like? And then he starts telling them about Jesus.

And what I'd suggest to you – to each of us this morning – if you are a Christian, and you still have breath in your lungs – Jesus has a purpose for you too!

Restoration → Obedience

V20 – He went out and started reporting. Simple. No seminary. No discipleship class at church. No small group. Just the message of who he had met, and how he had been saved.

CLOSING...

For us today, here's where I think we should land.

