

Go and Tell!
Mark 5:1-20
October 26, 2025
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¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ 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. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ 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." ⁸ For he was saying to him, "*Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!*" ⁹ And Jesus asked him, "*What is your name?*" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ 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.*" ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

On December 7, 1941, thirty-nine year old Mitsuo Fuchida was the man chosen to lead 183 planes to launch the first wave attack on Pearl Harbor. This man served as flight commander in the Japanese Navy. After the attacks, Fuchida returned to Japan as a hero. Mr Fuchida hated the West and believed in demanding revenge from his enemies. He survived the war and escaped death several times. But one day Fuchida became a Christian! When he later returned to his family he said, "*Life had no taste or meaning. ... I had missed death so many times and for what? What did it all mean?*". As his life took a turn of dejection and despair, one day, as he was walking through the Tokyo train station,

someone handed him a leaflet titled, “I was a prisoner of war”. The leaflet was by an American prisoner of war who had spent 3 ½ years at a Japanese concentration camp. It was an account of Jacob DeShazer who was tortured in the camps but loved the Japanese. How could that be? Fuchida found that Jacob was a follower of Jesus who rejoiced in the midst of his sufferings. Later, Fuchida went to a bookstore and bought a Bible. And then he asked God to forgive him, became a Christian and then an evangelist. He began to tell everyone about Jesus Christ. After he became a Christian, he went from being national hero to national enemy. One of his lieutenants even tried to kill him but also became a Christian after Fuchida witnessed to his man with a knife to his throat.

In this passage, we see a man being oppressed by demonic powers. And then Jesus meets this man. And something *wonderful* happens. He is radically transformed. Once he is transformed, he longs to be with Jesus. But Jesus sends this man on a mission. That mission is “Go and Tell!”. Because of the length of this passage, I have divided it into five major observations or points.

A Staggering Oppression

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,⁴ 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.⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones...¹⁰ He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.

This man was possessed by demons. Not one demon but many demons. He was not only demon possessed but he was living among the tombs. More than that the demons inside him gave him superhuman strength. This man was overpowered by such evil that no human could control him. They even put chains on him and he broke them. What gave this man that kind of strength?

He was possessed by a legion of demons. The Roman legion consisted at least six thousand soldiers. And what did these demons do to this man?

They oppressed him so much that the man was hurting himself and crying day and night. He felt powerful and yet helpless. This man’s oppression was of staggering proportion.

There are many people like that today. They appear to be invincible and yet helpless. And there are others given to all kinds of sinful choices that leave them in despair and loneliness.

Sin’s power is oppressive. It can be demonic. And it leaves people hurting themselves

and hurting others. No man, no earthly power or no program can deliver from the oppressive power of sin.

Of course, Jesus knows all about the power of demons. He himself had been tempted by Satan but never gave in to his deception. But the demons are no match for Jesus. And Jesus is not just more powerful than all the demonic forces combined together, Jesus is also sovereign over them. What happens when the Sovereign Savior meet this man?

The Sovereign Savior

Verses 6 through 13.

⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ 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." ⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ 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.

This man was so oppressed, in pain and misery. But when he Jesus from a distance, notice what he does. He runs and falls prostrate before Jesus. The language of "falling down" is akin to worship.

What did he see in Jesus? Why was he afraid of Jesus?

The demons inside him know who Jesus really is. They knew his real identity – Jesus is Son of the Most High God. And they know their time is short. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

Unholiness and holiness cannot co-exist.

So, the demons start speaking through this man asking Jesus not to torment them. Think about what just happened – this man was being tormented by demons. He has no self-control. But as soon as he sees Jesus, the demons are afraid of being tormented by Jesus. Jesus has absolute power and authority. He has power over the seas and winds. He has power over demonic forces.

And the demons beg Jesus to send them into the pigs. They *plead* with Jesus. There is a lot of pleading in this passage. Hold that word in your thought.

Now why send the demons into these pigs?

The demons know their destruction is coming. In Revelation 20: 10 "*and the devil who*

had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

So these demons try to find a temporary place before they end up in the eternal lake of fire. Another reason would be to show the possession was real.

And what happened to the pigs? They drown into the sea. How many? *Two thousand pigs. Six thousand demons. So, three demons per pig.*

The pigs are drowned. The demons are gone. What about the man? How was he doing? This man is a changed man.

A Radical Transformation

Verses 14 thru 15.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ 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.

Do you see the transformation in this man? How wonderful!!

The disciples were with Jesus. The people who were tending the pigs were there. And they went and told others about what happened. Many people come and see this man. Everyone came and saw this man. They knew who he used to be.

What was his condition? He is sitting down. He is no longer running around. He put his own clothes on. He has a right mind. He was restored to health. What an amazing transformation!

You see when Jesus comes into your life, the demons shriek and run away. When Jesus takes control of your life, the pain, the despair, the hopelessness goes out and a sound mind comes in.

The word “right mind” is used in few other places in the New Testament. It can mean self-controlled but not just limited to self-control.

Romans 12:3 *“..think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.”*

When Jesus told Peter that he would have to the cross, Peter was upset but Jesus rebuked him and said, *“Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man”* Matthew 16:23.

Man’s default mindset is to exalt himself but God wants us to have the mind of Christ.

“Have this mind among yourselves which is yours in Christ Jesus” Philippians 2:5
“Set your mind on things above..” where Christ is seated. Colossians 3:2

Jesus came to set this man free. To end his pain. To end his hurt. To give him a new life. To set him free from oppression. Jesus is in the business of setting men and women free from the power of sin, from the curse of sin. It is for giving us freedom Christ came.

Slavery to sin results in death but Christ sets us free!

Dear friends, have you experienced this freedom from Christ? It is wonderful!!

Now, how did the people react who had witnessed the man’s change?

Verses 16 and 17.

¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

Instead of being thankful to Jesus they plead with Jesus to leave the place. First the demons *plead* with Jesus to not torment them. The people in town have seen this man oppressed for a long time and now he is well, he is healthy, he is transformed. They beg and plead with Jesus to leave. So what does Jesus do?

So, Jesus accepts their request.

But this man who was delivered by Jesus has a new desire and plea.

A Holy Longing

Verses 18:

¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.

As Jesus is getting into the boat, the man who was delivered from demons starts *pleading* with Jesus. All this man wants to do is be with Jesus.

The demons *plead* with Jesus. The people in the town *plead* with Jesus. Now, this man *pleads* with Jesus.

Not only does Jesus transform this man’s life to give him a right mind. Now, he has new desires.

He was once living among the tombs like a dead man. Now he is full of life and cannot imagine a life without Jesus.

What does our Lord tell him?

Last observation.

A Marvelous Mission

¹⁹ *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.”* ²⁰ *And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.*

The Lord Jesus does not permit to go with him. Jesus has a mission for him. What is his mission? Go and tell!

Go to your home and to your own people and tell them two things.

- How much the Lord has done. This is *perfect* tense in grammar. Meaning – Completed action with future implications. Jesus is not done with him. Jesus’ power and Jesus’ presence is going with him where ever he goes. He was once indwelt by unholy oppressive demons. Now he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. And Jesus has a mission for him. Jesus is not done with you. *“he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”* Philippians 1:6. In the meantime, Jesus has a mission for you and I. Go and tell someone how much he has done for you.
- The second thing Jesus wants this man to tell is how much Jesus has had mercy on me. Paul reminds the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 4:1 *“Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God..”* We receive mercy. We do ministry because of God’s mercy.

What did this man do? He *obeyed* Jesus and did exactly as he was commanded. And everyone was amazed. We are called to a mission of marvel.

My dear friends, if you have been walking with the Lord, if you have received his mercy, have you ever shared with anyone how much God has done? Some of you may say “I am afraid”, I don’t have enough words to share with my friends. How about your own family? Your spouse, your children, your siblings, your unsaved relatives and your close friends.

For some of you, this is your mission from Jesus today. Tell someone what Jesus has done for you.

Consider this man - living among the tombs. Jesus rescued this man from the tombs. Jesus was killed, crucified and put in a tomb. On the third Jesus rose again from the dead.

Maybe your life is like this man. Without any self-control, hurting others, hurting yourself. Inside, you are crying out for help, you have tried all human solutions but nothing works. Jesus is still alive today. He is able to save you. You don't have to be enslaved to sin. Christ wants to set you free.

The first step is repentance. Run to Jesus, you have a sure hope. Those who never repent of their sin will face the terrible and terrifying judgment of God one day.

The Lord Jesus Christ is a merciful Savior. Will you run to him?
May the Lord Jesus Christ bless his Word!

----- Discipleship Questions-----

MESSAGE SUMMARY: Go and Tell! Mark 5:1-20

HEAD: These questions help you examine the truth of God's Word.

1. What are at least five major observations you see in this passage?

HEART: These questions help you wrestle with what you believe.

2. Do you believe you need to tell others what Jesus has done for you? Why or why not? Go around and share.

3. What is God convicting you of and to believe in light of this message?

HANDS/HABITS: These questions help you bring the truth into your everyday life and develop behaviors that change your habits.

4. For personal reflection: What is the Lord Jesus doing in your life? Share a praise report.