

Series: Goodnews
Passage: Mark 5:1-20
Sunday: August 2, 2026

Mark 5:1-20 (ESV)

⁵ 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.

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1. What are your observations of the region Jesus stepped into? What are your observations about the demon possessed man?
 2. When you read verses 3-5, do you feel uncomfortable? Why do we feel uncomfortable when we talk about spiritual warfare? What is the danger in ignoring these realities and overemphasizing them?

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3. This passage includes people within the city who were comfortable leaving this man in a tortured state. In what ways do you think someone is so far gone, that you don't share the gospel with them? Before you object, ask yourself what your actions are toward the lost.

4. In what ways has God revealed prejudice in your life? How can you continue to love others well even when it is difficult?

5. What does this passage teach you about Satan and his demon's behavior? How can you see his tactics transposed in our society today?

6. Compare Mark 5:18-20 to John 16:4-15 and Matthew 28:19-20. What is the importance in sending us out once we are born again? Why does Jesus not want us to stay where we were?

7. How are you going out and proclaiming the gospel?