

“Go and Tell Your Friends”

May 11, 2025
Mark 5:1-20

Introduction

As many as 60 percent of people in the United States feel some level of alienation with the church as we know it!

If those people are going to experience a relationship with Jesus it is most likely NOT going to start in a church building!

The Setting:

“They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.”
Mark 5:1

This incident takes place in Gentile territory. Why is this significant?

The Demon Possessed Man:

And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 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. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.
Mark 5:2-5

The man has an unclean spirit, not primarily meaning that the spirit itself is “unclean”, though it is, but that the **presence of the spirit makes the man unclean.**

His life is a RUINED life - an outcast of society.

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Jesus and the Demon Possessed Man:

And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. 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.” For he was saying to him,
“Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”

Mark 5:6-8

He falls into a heap before Jesus!

Demons seem to have an understanding of the end times, but not of Jesus 1st coming.

Jesus’ Response:

And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him, saying,
“Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.”

Mark 5:9-12

The man is possessed by many demons, but Jesus isn’t limited in His authority or power.

The Transformation:

And people came to see what it was that had happened. And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed, in his right mind, and they were afraid.

Mark 5:15

Notice the contrast with verses 2-6, the man is completely changed!

Two Responses to this Miracle:

1. The People respond (initially) not in faith, but rejected Jesus.
2. The man responds in faith, wanting to “be with Jesus”.

Two Truths for Us:

1. There are no people who are beyond the authority and power of Jesus to heal. calm.
2. Jesus made an intentional effort to go to this man, and He has commissioned us to GO also!

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