

O. Intro: Earnest and Demoniac: Jamaica (Bermuda?).

Mark 5:1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes (jer a scenes) **2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. **3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. **4** For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. **5** Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. **6** When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. **7** He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!” **8** For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” **9** Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” **10** And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. **11** A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. **12** The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” **13** He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. **14** Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. **15** When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. **16** Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well. **17** Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. **18** As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. **19** Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” **20** So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

*Some say what first century folks called demonization was really just mental illness.

*I have long wondered why if someone doesn't want to take the Bible seriously why not just disregard it completely...seems it would be easier.

*After all if this was not about demons it's even more incredible that Jesus could take this man's mental illness and transfer it to a herd of pigs.

*Just as there is no rational reason to doubt that Jesus could control a weather event, such as we saw last week...there is likewise no rational reason to doubt that demons exist.

*There are presuppositional reasons to doubt it..."I don't believe they can exist (presup), therefore they don't exist(conclusion)."

*However, science cannot disprove their existence and history and personal experience certainly do validate their existence.

*If you struggle with believing the Bible...I don't...my perspective is based on a number of factors...rational thinking, personal experience, historical evidence, textual realities, faith/conviction realities...my presupposition regarding the Bible is that it is true...and therefore this account is accurate.

*There are a lot of questions that have good answers, we just don't know them all...like,
-Why did Satan fall? (yea he was proud, but still questions remain)
-How was he able to take a bunch of beings(demons) down with him?
-Why does Satan have such a long leash right now?

*I will say that in spite of the good answers that we don't yet have...there are many things we can observe related to the demonic that the Scripture does help us understand.

*Like the level of evil we have seen in individuals, and groups of individuals currently and in history...can only be explained through the existence of super evil beings.

*The ferocity of wrath and destruction that has been (and is) unleashed against the church is only explained through intelligent evil that moves through groups of people.

*The actual cases of individuals who can only be adequately explained by the presence of demons in their lives...acting with super human strength, having information they could not get through normal human processes, the level of evil activity in their lives, the sudden release back to full sanity when dealt with in the name of Jesus, etc.

*So demons are real, and they do seem to fit their activity to their goals...they stay incognito or they show themselves publically based on what works best for them.

***Important:** In the bible and in life today...not all physical or mental illness is demonic in nature.

*But some was and some still is.

*It is only chronological arrogance that makes people think we are so much smarter today than they were...and we know better.

"We are ruled by logic, they by superstition."

*In fact there is good evidence that we are ruled more by emotion now than at anytime in our history...we like to think we are more rational.

"We now live within the life form called "modernity," where revered ritual and personal relations do not smoothly govern life, because human solidarity (in family, neighborhood, school, workplace, church) has been pulverized. There are few things of equal significance to **this** fact for serious Christians to understand today. **In the "modern" condition, feeling will come to exercise almost total mastery over the individual.** This is because people in that condition will have to constantly decide what they want to do, and feeling will be all they have to go on. Here lies the secret to understanding contemporary Western life and its peculiar proneness to gross immoralities and addictions. People are overwhelmed with decisions and can only make those decisions on the basis of feelings." Willard, Dallas

*Moderns are not more scientific, not more prone to be lead by facts...we are in fact, more prone to be lead by feelings.

*We do have more information about the physical world because of years of accumulating data through scientific exploration...I am personally grateful for this fact.

*However, as we have gathered more information about the physical world we have lost touch of the larger realities of the world we live...namely the spiritual ones.

*The spiritual is just as real as the physical...just as "scientific" if you like...just as "rationally" believed and encountered.

***In this passage we find that...**Jesus is now in an area dominated by Gentiles (non-Jews)

*He went from the crowds on one side of the lake right into the situation with this unfortunate man.

*We don't know the occasion of his demonization...it could have been choices he made to open himself up, perhaps he was subjected to terrible things as a child and entrance was provided by the choice of wicked parents or other adults.

*Either way, it is very important that we do not turn this man into a cartoon character, or a fictional figure...he was a real person, and his suffering was real.

*We read that he had beyond normal human strength...and that sort of grabs our thinking...but what ought to capture our attention is that this strength was revealed how?

*By the fact that he was "**often chained hand and foot**"

*Do you get what this means?...he was hunted like an animal, captured, likely by a number of men...then chained hand to feet.

*Left to lie in his own waste, living outdoors in the weather...he would eventually break free...and roam among the remains of the dead and in the hills with the rest of the wild animals.

*Night and day he would "**cry out and cut himself with stones.**"

*How can your heart not break for this man...he was still in there, somewhere, but submerged under this army of evil spirits.

*Were the demons causing him to harm himself, or was the physical pain a distraction from the pain he had inside?

*Some in our own fellowship can relate to that reality...where the inner pain is so great that physical pain is a form of relief.

*This poor man, who no doubt looked and smelled worse than most animals, came running towards Jesus.

*The demons that animated his body knew the gig was about up.

***What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"**

*Notice these beings were pleading to **not** be subjected to the very thing they had been doing to this poor man...torture.

*Why do you think they would even consider the fact that Jesus might torture them?
-Because that is what they would do and were doing when their power.

8 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” 9 Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”

*Legion, was the name for a large number of Roman Soldiers...but Legion was outnumbered by Jesus here.

I have a lot of questions regarding what happened next...and there are a lot of answers...unfortunately I don't have those answers right now just the questions.

*But, that's okay...right?

*Is there is any area of your life without questions?

*Questions keep Google employed...but some questions are beyond even mighty Google.

1. Why did the demons want to be cast into the pigs?

-Was it because it was in their nature to destroy?

Or

-To prolong the inevitability of being sent to their destiny of judgment?

2. Why did Jesus go along with it?

-Doubtful he was being merciful to these beings, but maybe he was.

-Perhaps the people needed a visible show of the transfer of evil from the man...so these pigs served that purpose.

*This is probably the case because the narrative mentions that the eyewitnesses definitely remembered this part of the story.

16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well.

*Some struggle with thinking that these poor pigs were mistreated...I would only say that line of thinking widely misses the point.

*These pigs were being raised for food...they were going to be consumed and that would be their end and the end of their purpose for existing.

*Truth is, these pigs, as far as pigs go, are famous...we are still talking them...20 centuries later.

*Their purpose, in my opinion, surpassed becoming bacon...they were a part of the redemption of a man...and they were used by God to further the story of his glory among the nations.

*My guess is if these pigs were given the capacity to reason and speech...they would have considered themselves to be envied among all other pigs that had lived.

*After all, animals, unlike humans...really do live their purpose as they were created.

*These pigs served humanity and God's glory in greater fashion than all those pigs in history that merely became ham.

*I seriously doubt we should spend time pitying the pigs...these pigs "out purposed" many men in history.

The aftermath:

*Now the storyline moves to the two main responses to what had happened.

1. The response of those who wanted Jesus to go away.
2. The response of the one who wanted to go away with Jesus.

1. The response of those who wanted Jesus to go away:

*The pig farmers ran away and told everyone what had happened.

*A lot of folks returned with them and saw the man who had been tormented for so long, and a man they had feared...

*Now fully dressed (he had gone for a long time without clothes, you can't keep clothes on a wild animal), and in his right mind.

*They were afraid...they pleaded with Jesus to go away.

*Why do you suppose this was so?

*The disciples knew Jesus well and when he told them to "stand down" and they obeyed they were afraid.

*Little wonder these folks who did not know Jesus were afraid when he took authority over demonic powers.

*Fear is an emotional response...caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat.

*Possibly this was just the emotional response of a gut level fear of the unknown and uncontrollable.

*But their fear was not irrational...they were in the presence of a power far beyond their comprehension...in addition they were sinful people in the presence of holiness.

*Like Isaiah...when he saw the Lord...he saw himself more clearly and this caused him to feel like he was about to die.

*I think the presence of fear gives me some hope for these people...because no fear of God and no love for God is a terrible combination.

*In Romans 3:18 Paul lists the actions and thoughts of people who have become utterly wicked and he concludes with...**“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**

*This lack of fear was both a cause and an effect of their ruin.

*There is a right and wrong way to deal with the fear of God.

*The right way is **1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."**

*Here the person learns to address fear because he or she has learned to Love God and they understand that they are loved by God.

*Others have no fear of God...but its not because of love.

*Lewis said there are things other than love that cast out fear of God such as....ignorance, alcohol, passion, presumption, and stupidity.

"It is very desirable that we should all advance to that perfection of love in which we shall fear no longer; but it is very undesirable, until we have reached that stage, that we should allow any inferior agent to cast out our fear." Lewis: The world's last night

*They were afraid...they did not love Jesus, they only feared him.

*Hopefully they would come to love him someday.

2. The man who wanted to go with Jesus

*This man may have felt fear, but his love and faith exceeded and overpowered it.

***Let's try to pay careful attention to this now blessed man's response to Jesus and the Lord's response to him.**

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

*I feel sorry for the man again here...Jesus is getting back into the boat; he is going to cross back over into Jewish territory.

*This man doesn't want to be separated from his Savior...he wants to go with him.

*Can you blame him?

Questions:

1. Will these people accept me now that I am changed?

-I lived like a beast among them, they feared me, hunted me, chained me.

*The guy had a wide spread reputation.

*Those are not easily changed in the minds of people.

2. Go home to your family! Wow!

-Did he have a wife, kids, parents still alive?

-People he had deserted, embarrassed.

-How would they treat him now?

3. Would the demons return when Jesus left?

-They came before, what if they come back?

-Wouldn't you be afraid of that...I would.

4. Finally, he probably already loved Jesus..he really wanted to with him.

*When you have suffered like he had, been hunted, chained, feared...and a man shows you mercy...rescues you...

*Yea, you would want to go with him!

*He "begged" Jesus..."Please let me go with you!"

*Interesting, this is the same word in the Greek that the people used to "beg" Jesus to go away from them.

*They "pleaded" with Jesus to go away **from** them...this rescued man pleaded with Jesus to be able to go away **with** him.

*But Jesus did not call him to come with him...like he did the disciples.

*See how different people have different roles, different callings.

*We don't get to evaluate and measure our lives by the way God calls and deals with someone else...he told Peter, "leave your nets and come with me."

*He told this man, "Stay here, you are not to go with me."

*Instead Jesus sent this man to tell his people what he had done for him.

*Some folks were healed and rescued and were told to not testify to what Jesus had done.

*Maybe because they didn't really "get it"...they didn't understand that it was not about physical healing but about redemption that they were told to "stay quiet."

***This man must have understood...because he was told "go home and tell your family how the Lord has had mercy on you."**

*And he did...but not just to his family...he went to the entire area of the Decapolis (ten cities) and told his story, and people were amazed.

*I'm telling you, his story had gone viral in the region...a super human man who broke chains and roamed the hills and graveyards with no clothes, howling at night and terrorizing people.

*Don't think this was not very interesting and scary stuff even back then.

*Now he is sane, reunited with his family and giving personal testimony of the mercy of Jesus...and his power over the forces of evil.

Application:

*Let me give you our main personal applications for this morning.

1. We all have very different stories and we all have the exact same story.

2. We all have very different callings and we all have the exact same calling.

1. We all have very different stories and we all have the exact same story.

*My close friends grew up in different states, had very different personalities, parents, opportunities, challenges, physical and mental factors.

*Every friend I have has a very different story than I do.

*Some of you have suffered and do suffer from physical afflictions.

*Some from emotional ones.

*Some, perhaps have dealt with demonic oppression, or still do.

*Some have had fairly easy roads so far.

*This man had a horrible backstory...legendary in its difficulty.

*To live like an animal, chained and feared, and to have lost control of your own physical self and to be controlled by spiritual evil...what a terrible, terrible existence.

*Others in the Biblical narrative, like Peter for instance, seemed to live a fairly normal life...fishing, family, pretty straightforward, simple existence.

*So our stories are as varied as we are...look at the whole biblical record...vast differences in personal stories.

*But then, all of my friends who have become followers of Jesus share the same story I do.

*Just as Peter and this man share the same story when it comes to the turning point of their lives.

*I grew up in a middle class, Middle American home.

*But my encounter with Christ was every bit as heart, mind, life changing and destiny changing as this demoniac's was.

*We came down different paths, but at a certain point our feet put on the very same path...we began to walk in the way of Jesus.

*It explains why before Christ the few friends I had, shallow though they were, were based on common external interests...sports, girls.

*After Christ...my friendships, have been based on our common experience with Jesus.

***Gal. 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**

*Not that gender or nationality or social positions don't matter...but that what matters most is to be in the same family...to be in Christ.

*So the church, is not the most segregated place on earth...it is, and always has been the most diverse and yet united place on earth.

*Sure you can look at the fights and the problems...I am amazed at the coherence that doesn't exist in any other human organization.

*In this church...I know of many instances where because of educational, racial, social, personal differences...people would not even have interacted in ways that might have lead to friendships.

*And if they did, the differences would have made friendship unlikely or impossible.

*Now, they are close friends, living life together...learning from each other.

*We are most aware of racial differences that exist between people.

*But in college almost all my close friends were black...we played football together, shared common bonds, interests, team unity.

*So what amazes me is not that people of different color live together in the Body of Christ...but that people of vastly different interests, personalities, backgrounds, social strata, do.

*Christ is their common denominator.

*Don't fret your backstory, don't waste time comparing with each other's backstory...other than to marvel at the grace of God in everyone's lives.

*Pay most attention to the fact that for Christ followers every storyline converges at the point of experiencing God's mercy.

*We don't become clones...we retain our vast diversity....but Christ, not political or social activism is what brings unity in the diversity of humanity.

*Here is the bottom line...**all who have been rescued and remember that they have...they want to go with Jesus...they desire to be with him...same story.**

2. We all have very different callings and we all have the exact same calling.

*As I said, some were called to go with Jesus, this man was not...he was sent out among his people.

*Vocation, or calling is really like a coin with two sides.

*On one side, there is great diversity of calling...Soldiers, accountants, teachers, truck drivers, scientists, athletes, vocational ministers.

*On the other side there is complete unity of calling...**"Go and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."**

*To announce the good news of the impact of the gospel on your own life in your own sphere of influence...that is our common calling.

*The vocation of everyone who has been rescued is to represent Jesus, to tell of his mercy (and live out his mercy) in the place where Jesus places them...calls them.

PRAY

SMALL GROUP NOTES
April 26, 2015 **Mark 5:1-20**

Intro:

*What are some reasons people struggle to believe the Bible is true?

*Do you? Why or why not?

*What does "Chronological arrogance" mean?

*Timothy Dwight, Grandson of Jonathan Edwards and president of Yale University, two hundred years ago, was self-taught in Hebrew, Greek and Latin by around age 12. He was widely studied in all manner of academic topics. If you go back many hundreds of years before Dwight, brilliant people who mastered broad topics and thought deeply and profoundly about life lived, wrought, taught.

*Chronological arrogance can cause us to discount the lives of people who have come before us..."They didn't feel or think as deeply as I do." "They were not as enlightened." "If they knew what we knew then they would think as we do."

*Our "modern" age is not ruled primarily by "facts" or "reason" but largely by emotion. Discuss the way in which this is played out in our culture today.

Read:

Mark 5:1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. 14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Discuss:

1. Talk through what this man's life might have looked like? Be realistic, practical. What were his days like? What was it like to see him, smell him, be him? (This is to help us think about the biblical narrative in a "real world" way.)

2. There are two "storylines" that diverge after the miracle. One is the story of those who want Jesus to go away. The other is the one who wants to go away with Jesus.

*Why did the people in the region want Jesus to go away, why were they so afraid?

3. How is fear of the Lord a good thing and when is it a bad thing to not have that fear?

*Romans 3:18 **"There is no fear of God before their eyes."**

4. Discuss this verse: 1 John 4:18 **"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."**

*What do you think this means in practical, real life ways?

5. What are some the reasons that the rescued man wanted to go away with Jesus?

6. Why would Jesus tell the man he would not be able to go with him?

7. Does this seem "unkind" or a "rejection" by Jesus? Why or why not?

8. What impact did the man seem to have in the region where he lived?

Apply:

1. We all have very different stories and we all have the exact same story.

2. We all have very different callings and we all have the exact same calling.

*In line with today's passage and in thinking about your own life and the lives of others, what do you think those two statements mean?

*What are some practical applications and real world implications for those two realities in your personal relationships?

*What would it look like if you were to become more engaged in what the Lord directed the rescued man to do?...**"Go and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you."**

The Gospel of Mark



*"For even the
Son of Man
did not come
to be served,
but to serve,
and to give
his life as a
ransom for
many."*

Mark 10:45

Mark 5:1-7 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!”

Mark 5:8-14 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

Mark 5:15-20 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Chronological Arrogance

"We are smarter than all those dumb ancient people."

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- Dallas Willard

Remember...*This is the story of a real person*

"What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!"

Mark 5:8-9 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”

Mark 5:16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well.

**1. The response of those who wanted Jesus
to go away.**

**2. The response of the one who wanted to
go away with Jesus.**

**1. The response of those who wanted Jesus
to go away.**

“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 3:18

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

1 John 4:18

"It is very desirable that we should all advance to that perfection of love in which we shall fear no longer; but it is very undesirable, until we have reached that stage, that we should allow any inferior agent to cast out our fear."

-C.S. Lewis

2. The response of the one who wanted to go away with Jesus.

Mark 5:18-20 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

**They "pleaded" with Jesus to go away from
them...this rescued man pleaded with Jesus
to be able to go away with him.**

**"Go home and tell your family how the Lord
has had mercy on you."**

- 1. We all have very different stories and we all have the exact same story.**
- 2. We all have very different callings and we all have the exact same calling.**

Gal. 3:26-28 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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**"Go and tell them how much the
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