

## Daily Bible Study

### *“The Hope of the Hopeless ~The Demoniac -Part 1”*

*Mark 5:1-20*

*April 11-17, 2010*

**THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY** – We return this week to our study of The Gospel of Mark and take as our text, **Mark 5:1-20**. We have seen Jesus’ Lordship from this gospel of Mark in many areas; specifically last time we saw from **Mark 4:35-41** His power and control over the elements of the creation (*wind and waves*) exercised as “Lord of Nature”. As we move now into **Mark 5** we will find Jesus is “The Hope of The Hopeless” and Mark uses 3 specific situations to outline this for us readers of his gospel record. The first instance is in the case of the demon possessed man which we are introduced to in the following verses. **Mark 5:1-5** “*Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.*” Our text begins by informing us of Jesus and the twelve arriving on *the other side of the sea* as Jesus had directed them in **4:35**. They arrive in the country of the *Gadarenes*. The specific area the Lord and his men have landed at can be described as we put all the synoptic gospels together. From Matthew, Mark, and Luke we understand this was a place of caves used as tombs and also that the geography was such that a steep hill descended sharply down to the very edge of the water. We find Jesus meets this demoniac (Matthew tells us there were two men) *immediately* as *He had come out of the boat*. Jesus had just stilled a wild sea and now He is about to deal with a wild man. We understand this man had an *unclean spirit*. He was possessed by a morally filthy, ungodly fallen angel; a demon. It is obvious the effect the demon had on this man. According to Luke this man was *from the city* but now we read that the man lived among the tombs and *wore no clothes (Luke 8:27)*, but this was just the beginning of the signs that he was controlled by a demon. He was not merely maniacal but furthermore demoniacal as he is without even proper God given shame for his nakedness. This is not just a sad picture painted by Mark but a terrifying one. The neighbors of this man seeming only to be concerned for their safety and protection apparently had attempted to keep him subdued with *shackles and chains*. We are informed by Matthew that no one could travel near this place and those who were near enough could hear what Mark adds for us next. Into the terrifying scene Mark adds the man went about *crying out*. This word *krazo* is used for both the croaking of frogs and the cry of the raven; both sounds which demonstrate the horror of the state of this man. The eerie cries of this man echoed around the tombs, caves, and steep cliffs of this region.

*The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: We see in this scene the horror & hopelessness of sin. Ask God for awareness of sins horror & thank Him for the deliverance He has given you in Christ.*

**TUESDAY** – **Mark 5:6-9** “*When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.*” Some critics of Sacred Scripture argue there is a contradiction and conflict in **Mark 5: 2 & 6**. With any use of common sense the seeming contradiction is easily dealt with. It seems that the demoniac sees Jesus approaching from afar as the boat is coming to shore and runs to meet Him at the shore immediately as Jesus steps out of the boat. To have a naked man in this condition running toward Jesus and the twelve must have been quit an experience for the disciples whose faith had just been tried in the storm on the sea. We now pick up the story with what may seem to cause some questions as we ponder this bizarre scene in light of what we have already read concerning the demoniac. This man runs toward the

newcomers on the boat and when he, actually the demons within him recognize Jesus we have the reaction that follows. The text tells us that he, the demoniac *worshiped Him*. The word Proskuneo literally means “to kiss the hand” and it is used to show reverence and homage to one of superior rank or position. We see the word used in humble, reverent worship of Jesus by the Magi in **Matthew 2:2, 11**. In this instance, we can use the word in its more general definition of “fall upon the knees” and prostrate one’s self. This demon possessed man comes before Jesus and falls down before Him. Exactly where He is mentally at this moment we are not for sure but mark this, the demons fall before Christ and acknowledge Him in His power and Lordship. John Gill comments on the power and authority of Jesus as follows: “...when he came up to him, fell down at his feet before him, acknowledging his superiority and power, whom no chains nor fetters could bind, nor any man tame; nor durst any man pass that way, for fear of him: and yet, upon sight of Christ, without a word spoken to him, he runs and prostrates himself before him.”

*The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer:* Many times, our awe of God is diminished. Although it is with hatred to Him, even the demons recognize and bow before the majesty, power, authority and Lordship of Jesus. Are you bowing before His Lordship in your thoughts, words, deeds? Ask God to help you in your fear, reverence, obedience and submission to Him.

**WEDNESDAY – Mark 5:6-9** “When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” As we continue please notice this man’s behavior is very similar to the incident we saw in **Mark 1:23-24**. Both of these instances contain a loud, fearful and seeming angry cry by these demons in confession to the Deity and Lordship of Jesus. Men may often attempt to deny Jesus deity but NEVER do the demons. The demon spokesman if you will speaks to Him, to Jesus, his great opponent as it were. The demon also understands that he is speaking to the great and final destroyer of Satan, demons, death, and all evil (**1 John 3:8**). From this wild mans lips come forth the emotions of despair, fear, and frustration of the evil spirit as he asks, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” The great confession of the exalted personhood of Christ is heard in the phrase, *Son of The Most High God*. The demon in today’s vernacular asks Jesus to “swear to God” not to torment him. We understand this discourse is going back and forth and that during this conversation Jesus said to the demon, “Come out of him” (**verse 8**). Matthew records the demons asking Jesus if He was there to torture them *before the appointed time*. The demons know their doom is certain and that there is an appointed Day of Judgment coming and they are asking the Lord for more time to wreak their havoc and not to send them to the *abyss*. The Greek construction of **verse 8** tells us that Jesus had commanded the demon to come out. *For He said* is in the imperfect tense which speaks of a continuous action in past time. Knowing that he is no match for the power of Jesus the demon is lead to a frantic, quick confession and inquiry of Jesus to be merciful to him.

*The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer:* This demon was “rolling along” as it were until he came face to face with Jesus and then we read of the ensuing chaos. Are you full of excuses and frantic cover up responses when made aware of your sin? Father, help me not to attempt bartering with You but instead to fall before You humble and contrite. Wash me and cleanse me of all my sin.

**THURSDAY – Mark 5:9-13** “Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.” In **verse 9** we read that Jesus asks the demon his name. Many commentators have differed as to why this was the case. Lord willing, we will look at some of these this upcoming Lord’s Day morning. Suffice to say for now; naming and names themselves reveal. It was in the garden that God had Adam

name the animals showing his authority, dominion and leadership over them. He also named Eve when God brought her to him (**Genesis 2:18-23**). Another instance where we see the significance of naming displaying power is when Jacob was wrestling with the *Man* of **Genesis 32:24-32**. In that portion he was asked for his name and then he in turn asked the name of his opponent and God did not answer him but held all the control and power as He renamed Jacob and blessed him. In our text the demons already spoke Jesus name (**verse 7**) but now Jesus reveals His superior power over demons as He asks for his name. In this reply to Jesus we are brought to a more clear understanding of the misery of this man possessed. He is not indwelt by merely one demon but by a *legion* (a body of soldiers whose number differed at different times and in the time of Augustus seems to have consisted of 6826 men (i.e. 6100 foot soldiers, and 726 horsemen). The word *legion* may not have to be taken literally here but could be understood figuratively as the demon then adds description by saying, *for we are many*. Regardless of the exact number of demons in this poor man we are fully aware of the sheer terror and horror of this life controlled and tormented by these evil unclean spirits. Read **1 John 5:18**.

*The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: 1 John 5:18 speaks concerning God placing limits on the power of Satan. It tells us as believers of the certainty we have of God's protection over us as His children from Satan and his demons influence and power. Rejoice in your soul and thank God for this wonderful reality today!*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY – Mark 5:9-13** “Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.” We spoke yesterday of the power of God over and above Satan and his demons and we need to remember that this power is manifest through the person and work of Jesus Christ. As we continue in the text we see Jesus in the “driver seat” if you will as He is in total control of these demons as they *begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country*. These demons are terrified of being sent to the abyss and are comfortable or “at home” terrorizing others particularly this man in this specific area of tombs, caves and etc... These demons are aware that they are at the mercy of Jesus and they are being cast out of this man so they again *beg* Jesus to send them into *a large herd of swine feeding there near the mountains*. There is much speculation as to why the demons request to be sent into the pigs. They range from the demons evil intentions and pleasure in the destroying of life and property to their possibly being motivated to get the people who owned the pigs upset at Christ and therefore bring problems and conflict against Jesus. Regardless the reason which is not expressed in Scripture the fact remains they know that they cannot successfully resist Jesus and they need His permission to enter the *swine*. We may take comfort in that. Lord willing, we will pick up in **verse 13** next time but let’s be reminded here from our text of the sinister, evil, wicked, diabolical and sinful nature of Satan, his demons and sin itself. These demons were comfortable living in a place of control and even in being commanded out they sought to somehow exercise a form of control or power. Indwelling sin in us as believers operates the same way today Beloved. Always does it try to salve the conscience with excuses and lies and never does it want to be cut out and forsaken but clings passionately and fights fervently for a place to hold on in our lives. We are so sinful and often guilty of not considering the end result of sin that is entertained and harbored. In a matter of moment’s this demoniac would be delivered by Jesus’ power but these demons would then continue their havoc as they drove *about two thousand* pigs into the sea to be drowned. Be warned Beloved of sins consequence and power. We need to be reminded of the counsel of **Deuteronomy 32:29**, “*Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!*” We need to mortify the indwelling sin within us and the only way we can do this is by the power of God through being filled with both His Word and Holy Spirit as we walk in Him. Read **Galatians 5:16**.

*The Word Applied & Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus' power & authority extends over sin, death, and even the powerful spirit world and is in us and exercised through yielding to The Holy Spirit.*