



**INTRODUCTION:**

**LESSON:**

**I. MARK 5:1-5**

**Demon Possessed Man**

**5:1** And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. Earlier we looked at Jesus over the forces of nature. Now Jesus demonstrates the power of the Servant of the Lord over the forces of demons.\* Verse 1 tells us that after the storm, they further traveled unto the other side of Galilee, into the country of the Gadarenes', or Gerasenes as some would render it. Now, as we look at the forces of Gadara, we see **three forces: the force of Satan, the force of Society, and the force of the Savior**. All these three forces are still with us, very active in our world today. This was a locality midway along the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, and it was mostly inhabited by Gentiles.

**5:2** And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,— Coming out of the boat," *Immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.*" Matthew 8:28, speaks of two demon-possessed men - but Mark only speaks of the one.

**NOTE:**

*\*It's like the desert dweller who didn't believe in rain because he'd never seen it. Just because we may never have seen an instance like this does not mean that it doesn't exist. We must beware of an unbelief in regard to the personality of the devil and his minions, the demons, because as one has well said: 'Unbelief in the devil has often proved to be the first step in unbelief in God'. An unclean spirit characterized itself with moral filthiness, and often caused much harm to the person who was possessed. Satan easily gets a foothold in our lives when we yield ourselves to sinful practices.*

**5:3** Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:—

**We see five things about the man:**

1. He had an unclean spirit.
2. He lived among the dead, dwelling among the tombs.
3. He could not be bound by fetters and chains that bind other men.

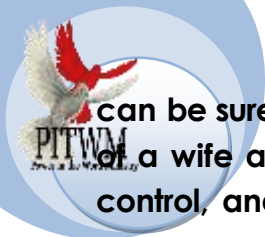
**5:4** Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

4. No man could tame him.

**5:5** And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

5. Always at night he was crying and cutting himself with the stones.

Oh, this man was dead on the inside. He was so dead that he was living with the dead.\* We



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can be sure that he did not start out this way. This man lost his home, his family, the companionship of a wife and children, his identity; his decency, he's running around naked. He's lost his self-control, and he's like a wild animal. His unearthly shrieking, cuts through the night air while cutting himself with stones. These spirits\*\* are unclean, and Satan drives them to destruction. He has lost peace in his mind and in his heart. He has lost his purpose for living.

## NOTE:

*\*This cycle of sin is when Satan gets you, and he wants you, and he wants to take you where he's going - because Satan knows where he's going, he's destined for hell. Bit by bit, step-by-step, he will destroy you - he wants you, he wants to get you and make you like the demoniac, his dungeon!*

*\*\*The problem with this man was: he displayed a demonic Herculean strength that some may be aware of, which takes over people who are oppressed, particularly possessed, by the devil.*

## II. MARK 5:6-13

### Jesus Drives Out Demons

**5:6** But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,— Jesus did not avoid this man; He made a special trip across the sea and braved a storm simply because He wanted to deliver this one man from the grip of Satan (Mk.4:35). This man wasn't even a Jew! He was a Gentile and still the Lord reached out to him! This man, who ran from everyone else, ran to the Lord Jesus and fell at His feet. "But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped Him."

6. This was the sixth thing about this man, he recognized who Jesus was but did not "know" Him.

- In character he was afar off. This man and the God-man had nothing in common, but he recognized Jesus.
- In knowledge he was afar off. The demoniac knew who Jesus was, but did not "*know*" (as having a relationship) with Him.
- In possessions he was afar off. This man had nothing to offer Christ, no good feelings, no repentance, no good thoughts, or no holy desires but he knew who Jesus was.

**5:7** And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. However, the demons that drove this man away from all human relationships drove him to the feet of Jesus. Why? They did not fall down before Jesus to worship Him as Lord; they merely fell down in acknowledgement of His deity, and they begged Him not to "*torment*" them. That is, they begged Him not to send\* them to Hell, Luke 8:31.

**5:8** For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. Jesus never wastes words over the devil. He speaks to him very shortly and very sharply. Do you notice in Mark 1:25, Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit saying, "*Hold thy peace, and come out of him*"—a direct command Here, Jesus speaks another direct command— Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. Jesus knows His authority over other spirits!

**5:9** And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. Jesus led the man to identify himself. Why would Jesus do that? The man answered, "**My name is legion: for we are many.**" "**Legion**" refers to the Roman military legion that included over six  
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thousand men. This showed how utterly possessed by evil this man was. But the evil 6,000 men within was no match for Jesus. This did not affect Jesus. But Jesus' power would be revealed to affect the man.

**5:10** And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. The evil spirits asked to remain in the present country. Apparently, the country and its life-style were more evil and more subject to evil than other countries.

**5:11** Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. These evil unclean spirits knew that they were near a herd of swine in the mountains feeding. They are looking for a choice to inhabit, for they already perceive what Jesus is about to do with them.

**5:12** And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. The man was demented physically and mentally, because he was not his own self. The unclean spirits; well now, the devils are speaking to Jesus to not send them out of the region, but into the swine. How can this one man tolerate\*\*a "legion" of demons? —battalion of over 6,000 Roman soldiers? The demons\* then requested that they might be allowed to enter into a herd of swine that was feeding nearby. Mind you, we're talking about a herd of swine (about 2,000). That's plural, and so are the devils. They needed a body!

## NOTE:

*\*Another popular conjecture about demons is that of "territorial spirits." This one has more of a biblical basis to it. The demons here beg not to be sent out of the country. It would seem that sending the demons out of the country would cause them to have to go into the abyss, the bottomless pit. Another demonic entity over Greece. Michael is apparently the angelic prince over Israel. So, it is entirely conceivable that there are territorial spirits and angels.*

*\*\*Things that control you: we all have them, don't we? Things that we would rather not do, but every time it comes across and says 'Hello', we jump right in there. All we need to see is a finger: 'Come here!', and we go, we run to it and we indulge in it, we roll around like a pig in the mud. Again, we get up in shame, and we think: 'Why, why did I do it again? What is it? Is it drugs? Is it promiscuity? Is it pornography? Is it alcoholism? What is it? Is it money? Is that the thing that drives you?'*

**5:13** And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. Jesus gives them permission and they left the body of the man and enter the bodies of the swine. The number of swine (2,000) cannot be compared to the devils (6,000) of evil spirits.\*\*\* They were malicious and violent which caused the swine to run violently down a steep place into the sea. The swine could not tolerate the demons, and kill themselves by running into the sea. Jesus knew that. That's why He allowed it!

## NOTE:

*\*\*\*If you do the math, there were 2,000 swine in that herd. That comes out to three demons per pig. They couldn't tolerate the presence of the devil and they committed "suey-cide". Those pigs couldn't stand just a few demons, yet this man was able to live with thousands. This just illustrates the human capacity for evil!*



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## III. MARK 5:14-20

**5:14** And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. Those who had once fed the pigs, ran away into the city and in the country to tell others of what they had seen. Their whole herd had been destroyed! They have lost financial stability! Of course, others were curious, so they came to see.

**5:15** And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They saw the man who had been demon-possessed, now clean and clothed, and in his right mind, and they became afraid. They became stricken with fear of Jesus' power, for they knew of the demon possessed man's power! And they're wondering what kind of power can Jesus do this?

**5:16** And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. Those who had witnessed this event told others what had happened to the man, and what had happened to the swine.

**5:17** And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts. It was too much for them to handle, so they pleaded; begged for Jesus to leave their region. They thought more of the swine and their financial loss, than Jesus meeting the need of mankind. They only saw Jesus messing up their livelihood, and not of the man that had been hurting for years; the man who was living in the tomb possessed with 6,000 unclean spirits, cut off from society, inflicting hurt upon himself, having an uncontrollable, untamed, wild, and violent temper. They counted him out; beyond help, except Jesus! And they want Jesus to leave! This reminds me of the fortune telling servant girl who kept saying "These are the servants of the Most High God." And Paul turned and commanded the spirit of divination in the Name of Jesus to come out of her. And the owners of the slave girl were mad at Paul because that was their livelihood and brought Paul and Silas before the rulers. They were beaten and thrown into jail (Acts 16:16-34).

**5:18** And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. But on the other hand the delivered man who had been possessed with the devil pleaded; begged Jesus to let him accompany Him; go with Him, for he was thankful. He had been delivered!\*

### NOTE:

\*Christians are bound by all sorts of fetters, you could even be oppressed of the devil as a Christian - not possessed now, but oppressed through fears and anxieties and all sorts of problems - but this man was delivered of all his fears, and all his demons. It's no surprise that he wanted to be with the Lord Jesus.

There is a simple spiritual truth here: If you care more about money than you do about people, you're going to reject the LORD.

**5:19** Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Well, if Jesus couldn't stay, He



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allowed the one man who received the miracle to evangelize his city and country. Jesus told the man to go home and tell his friends all the Lord had done for him, and how Jesus had compassion on him. Jesus saw something unique in this man that would make him a dynamic evangelist among his own people. And maybe the same compassion will rub off on them when they come in contact with the delivered man because when the people saw the miracle in the man the first time, and instead of falling at the feet of Jesus, they did the opposite. The delivered man wanted to follow Jesus - what did they do? They wanted Jesus to leave their coasts. I believe it won't be like that this time! He's going to make a difference because of Jesus!

## POINT:

*There will be many who might not believe, but there will be others who will see it and fear and many will trust in the Lord because of the change that is wrought in their life!*

**5:20** And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel. Jesus granted their request, and He left them alone to go on their own, but the result will be "*leaness into their soul*" (a state of emptiness; lack of fulfillment; spiritual and physical depletion) (Ps.106:15). But still Jesus left and evangelist to spread; publish the news in Decapolis. Be that witness for Christ wherever you are!

## SUMMARY:

We have a demoniac that no one could tame. **1** Jesus and the \*disciples came to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They came to the territory of the people from Gadarenes', or Gerasenes. **2** As soon as Jesus came out of the boat, a man with an \*unclean\* spirit met Him from among the graves (tombs). **3** The man lived among the graves and nobody could no longer tie him up or, chain him. **4** People had often bound him with chains on his hands and feet, but he tore the chains apart and broke the chains off his feet into pieces. He was too strong for anyone to control him. **5** All day and all night he wandered among the graves and through the hills. He was always screaming and cutting himself with stones (**5:1-5**).

**6** As soon as he saw Jesus in the distance, he ran to meet Him. He fell on his knees in front of Jesus. **7** He screamed, "*What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg thee by God, do not torment me; make me suffer!*" **8** This was because Jesus had said, "*Evil spirit, come out of this man!*" **9** Then Jesus asked the man, "*What is your name?*" The man answered, "*My name is Legion, because there are so many of us.*" **10** Then he asked Jesus again and again not to send the evil spirits out of that region. **11** There was a large number of pigs there. They were feeding themselves on the side of the hill. **12** The evil spirits urged Jesus, "*Send us to the pigs and let us go into them.*" **13** So, Jesus allowed them to go. The evil spirits came out of the man and they went into the pigs. All the pigs, about two thousand of them, rushed down the steep hill into the lake, and they drowned (**5:6-13**).





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**14** The men who had looked after the pigs ran off and spread the report of what had happened, in the town and the country. Then the people came out to see what had happened. **15** They came to Jesus. They saw the man whom evil spirits had controlled. He was sitting there with clothes on. He was completely normal. He was the same man who used to have the legion of evil spirits in him. The people were very frightened. **16** Those who had seen the incident told the people about the man and about the pigs. **17** Then the people began to urge Jesus to leave their neighborhood. **18** As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man kept on asking to go with Jesus. **19** But Jesus would not let him. He said to the man, "Go home to your family and friends. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how He has had pity on you." **20** So the man went away and began to tell all through the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. All the people who heard were astonished **(5:11-20)**.

*This lesson teaches us that all spirits are subject to Jesus. They recognize His authority, v7. They must have His permission. And that man is the most depraved creature in existence. So, when God saves a sinner, others who thought they were all right are terrified by it, especially if the saved man was once one of them! These poor souls were terrified in the presence of an almighty mercy, omnipotent love, and saving grace. Why? Because they knew nothing about it. They still lived in bondage. The only difference between them and the demoniac was that they were held by fetters and chains, and tamed by society, and they mistook their fetters for righteousness and their tameness for goodness. This young convert wanted to go immediately with Christ and become a preacher. The Lord would not allow it. The Lord sent him home to his family and friends, with a message to deliver to them. And this sinner, saved by the grace of God, did what the Lord told him to do.*