

The Garesene Demoniac

Mark 5:1-20

I. In our last lesson from the gospel of Mark the disciple's found themselves in the midst of a fierce storm.

II. Upon Jesus calming the storm his disciples asked “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

III. Of all the questions that man could ask about Jesus this is one of the most important.

IV. But what is just as important is how people respond once they get an answer. As we are going to see in our lesson today...

V. *What one knows of Jesus determines how they will respond to Him.*

VI. Beginning in chapter 5, Mark provides a series of miracles that completely and thoroughly answer our question, “Who then is this?”

VII. The first miracle in this series deals with the Gerasene demoniac.

VIII. Through this miracle Mark is able to demonstrate Jesus’ power over Satan and the forces of darkness.

VIII. This miracle also reveals how individuals responded once they know. In our lesson today we see three groups.

1. The demons
2. The towns people
3. The man possessed by the demons

Trans: Let’s begin by looking at the initial meeting with the Gerasene Demoniac

1. The demons and their response

A. Mark 5:1-13

B. This event takes place the same night Jesus calmed the storm, **v.1**

C. When they exit the boat they are immediately confronted by a man, **v2-5**

1. Matthew states that there were two men, while Mark and Luke mention only one.
 - a. **Matt. 8:28**
 - b. **Luke 8:26,27**
2. This should not be seen as a contradiction. In the two Matthew mentions you would find the one and in the one mentioned by Mark and Luke does not exclude the possibility of a second.
3. Rather it seems Mark and Luke are focusing on the more forceful of the two.
4. We find that this man is possessed an unclean spirit.
 - a. **Mark 5:9** states that he was possessed by many demons.
 - b. His name is legion. A Roman Legion consisted of 6000 men.
 - c. These demons were also unclean or morally impure, **Eph. 4:1**

5. This demon possession is the most violent seen in the Bible.
 - a. He had a supernatural strength, he could not be bound, **v. 3,4**
 - b. Matthew says that he was violent, **Matt. 8:28**
 - c. He would do harm to himself by gashing himself with stones.
 - d. He would also run around naked, **Luke 8:27**

6. These demons also affected this mans life day and night, **v.5**

D. When this demon possessed man sees Jesus He runs to Him and bows down before Him, **v.6-13.**

1. Immediately Jesus commands the unclean spirit to come out, **v.8**
2. As Jesus makes this command he asks for the demons name, **v.9**
 - a. It seems Jesus wants everybody to understand what He is doing.
 - b. When he says he is Legion, Jesus' power over an army of evil is established.
3. The demon begins to violently plead with Jesus, **v.7**
 - a. First he yells at Him, "What do I have to do with you?"
 - b. Literally he is telling Jesus to leave him alone.
4. He then acknowledges who Jesus is, "Son of the Most High," **Mark 1:23,24**
5. The demon is also aware that Jesus has power over him
 - a. This bowing down before Jesus is a act of worship.
 - b. But he is not doing this out of true reverence but fear.
 1. "Do not torment me" v.7
 2. **James 2:19**
 - c. The demon also entreats Jesus twice, **vs. 10-12**
 1. Not to send them out of the country, v.10
 - a. They weren't asking to go into another country
 - b. They didn't want to go into the abyss, **Luke 8:31**
 2. To be allowed to go into the herd swine, v.12
6. The demons know it is better to go into a herd of swine, than to be cast into the abyss, **Matt. 12:43.**
7. Jesus grants them the right to go into the swine and the result is disastrous. The swine run into the sea and drown.

2. The towns people and their response

A. **Mark 5:14-17**

B. Those that are tending to the swine run to the city and report what has taken place.

C. When they get back they see the demon possessed man restored.

1. He is in his right mind
2. He is once again clothed.

D. When they see this they become frightened.

- E. They entreat Jesus to leave out of their region.
 - 1. They didn't just want Him out of their lives but nowhere near them.
 - 2. The fact that the man was healed was of no concern
 - 3. The loss of property was their greater worry.
 - 4. Rich young ruler, Mark 10:17-22

3. The healed man and his response

A. Mark 5:18-20

- B. As Jesus prepares to depart the man that was demon possessed also entreats Him.
 - 1. But he wants to go with Jesus, he is not asking Him to leave.
 - 2. Jesus tells him there is something more important for him to do.
 - a. He needs to go and tell his people what has happened.
 - b. He needs to speak of Jesus' power and mercy.
- C. This man then proclaims Jesus to his people and more and they marvel.
 - 1. Decapolis is the region of the ten cities after this territory was named.
 - 2. This man would have told his family and then he went even further to whomever would listen.

Appl: As we consider this event we are seeking to answer the question, "Who then is this?" in regards to Jesus.

This miracle provides an answer and it also reveals how individuals respond when they get an answer.

- 1. We have the demons. They proclaimed Jesus' deity and followed his commands.
- 2. The people of the area fear when they come to know of Jesus' power.
 - a. They respond by telling Him to leave.
 - b. Their property was more valuable than what He had to offer.
- 3. The demon possessed man responded by wanting to become a part of what Jesus offered. He was willing to do what Jesus commanded.

What one knows of Jesus determines how they will respond to Him.

In this miracle we do see Jesus for who He is.

- 1. As the demon proclaimed, He is the "Son of the Most High"
- 2. As the demon possessed man went on to proclaim, "He is the doer of great things and the one who shows mercy."