

# Jesus and Demons

TEXT: Mark 5:1-20

## INTRODUCTION:

After the summer in which He delivered the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus traveled through many cities of Galilee ministering to the people. These journeys brought him to the Sea of Galilee during the fall. One evening He commanded his disciples to get in a boat and go to the other side of this large lake, stretching about 13 miles long and 8 miles across. The point at which Jesus and his disciples crossed was about five mile wide, about the same as the width of Lake Pontchartrain at the location of the Five Mile Bridge outside of Slidell.

This is the boat trip in which Jesus fell asleep in the stern of the boat. A fierce and sudden storm arose, as was common on this mountain surrounded lake even to this day, and threatened to sink them all. The frantic disciples awakened their Master Who stood and rebuked the wind and the waves saying, "Peace, Be still!" And suddenly the wind died and the waters calmed, and the disciples whispered in awe "Even the wind and sea obey Him!"

Early the next morning, Jesus and His disciples arrived at the other shore in the region of the Gadarenes, named for the little town of Gadara, about 5 miles inland. No sooner had Jesus demonstrated His power over the forces of nature than He is confronted by something far more frightening than a violent storm.

Mark 5:1-20 <sup>1</sup> Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. <sup>2</sup> And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>3</sup> who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. <sup>7</sup> 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." <sup>8</sup> For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." <sup>10</sup> Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

<sup>11</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. <sup>12</sup> So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." <sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

<sup>18</sup> And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. <sup>19</sup> However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." <sup>20</sup> And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

Look at four things in this remarkable occurrence.

## I. SEE THE REALITY OF DEMONS. (3-5)

**A. Demons are wicked angels who have rebelled against God.**

**B. Satan is the chief of these fallen angels.**

**C. What the demons did for this Gadarene, they can do for you.**

1. Crying, alone, hurting himself, endangering others
2. Demons come where they are given opportunity.

**D. Contrast what Satan and the demons want with what Jesus wants.**

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

## II. NOTE JESUS' AUTHORITY AND POWER OVER THE DEMONS. (6-13)

**A. The demons cower before the Son of God.**

**B. The demons are fit only for swine; and they end up killing them.**

**C. The best protection against demons is Christ.**

<sup>1</sup> John 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

1. A person with Christ in their life cannot be possessed by demons.

2 Cor. 6:15-17 <sup>15</sup> And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? <sup>16</sup> And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "*I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*" <sup>17</sup> Therefore "*Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.*"

2. A Christian who is walking in close fellowship with Christ will not be overcome by demonic influence.
3. You do not have to worry about what happens in dark alleys if you stay on clean, well lit streets!

### **III. LOOK AT THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE. (14-17)**

#### **A. They were afraid.**

1. Not of the mad Gadarene.
2. Afraid for their pocketbooks.
3. Afraid for their priorities.
4. Afraid of the penetrating knowledge of the heart Jesus clearly had.

#### **B. Therefore, they asked Jesus to leave.**

#### **C. Jesus left them alone.**

### **IV. OBSERVE CHRIST'S COMMAND TO THE MAN SET FREE. (18-20)**

#### **A. The saved man wanted to go with Jesus.**

#### **B. Jesus wanted him to stay and be a witness.**

#### **C. This saved demoniac became one of the first missionaries to the Gentile world!**

### **CONCLUSION:**

What will you say to Jesus? Will you tell Him to leave you alone?

What will you say to friends and family about what Jesus has done for you?

What influences will you open your life to this week?