

22S44 Mark 5:1-20 (Part 10)

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 5:1-20 (Part 10) Jesus casts out a legend of Demons from a possessed man in the tombs in the region Gerasenes (**ger-a-seens**).

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today. But of course, you can use whatever translation you choose.

Let's read Mark 5:1-20 (NAS) *¹They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes. ²When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him. ³He lived among the tombs; and no one was able to bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces; and no one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and cutting himself with stones. ⁶Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; ⁷and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" ⁸For He had already been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the region. ¹¹Now there was a large herd of pigs feeding nearby on the mountain. ¹²And the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us into the pigs so that we may enter them." ¹³Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. ¹⁴Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the countryside. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵And then they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had previously had the "legion"; and they became frightened. ¹⁶Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the pigs. ¹⁷And they began to beg Him to leave their region. ¹⁸And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was begging Him that he might accompany Him. ¹⁹And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how*

He had mercy on you.”²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

Let’s pray. Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

I want to show you a map. This is a map of Israel at the time of Jesus. Let me magnify Galilee for you.



Jesus had been in Capernaum in the northwest of the sea of Galilee. He had traveled across the sea to the east side. We don't know exactly where but the city labeled as Gergesa is probably close.



Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 5:1-5 (NAS) ¹*They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes.* ²*When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him.* ³*He lived among the tombs; and no one was able to bind him anymore, not even with a chain,* ⁴*because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces; and no one was strong enough to subdue him.* ⁵*Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and cutting himself with stones.*

Jesus knows why He is there and the story says immediately as Jesus was getting out of the boat, this demon possessed man confronts Jesus. This man was strong due to the demons, I'm sure everyone was terrified of him.

Mark 5:6-7 (NAS) ⁶*Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;* ⁷*and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"* The demons know who Jesus is. They run to Him and bow down. They know God is there. They even ask for a favor.

But first, let's read on, Mark 5:8-10 (NAS) ⁸*For He had already been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"* ⁹*And He was asking him, "What is your*

name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the region. This quiet odd. Jesus already knew the man had many demons; This question is obviously for the disciples to understand what is going on. The demons have no doubt about the power of Jesus.

Now Mark 5:11-13 (NAS) *¹¹Now there was a large herd of pigs feeding nearby on the mountain. ¹²And the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us into the pigs so that we may enter them." ¹³Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the pigs; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea.*

I've heard many people take issue with this scenario. I've always wondered why the pigs killed themselves. But I think the thing we should concentrate on is two thousand pigs. The demons in this one poor man were more than two thousand. Just let that sink in for a moment.

Now Mark 5:14-16 (NAS) *¹⁴Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the countryside. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵And then they came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had previously had the "legion"; and they became frightened. ¹⁶Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the pigs.*

I'm only guessing but I think the herdsmen are probably pretty upset. Maybe even angry with Jesus. I'm sure they are scared of Jesus when they see the man He has rescued from the legion of demons.

Now Mark 5:17-20 (NAS) *¹⁷And they began to beg Him to leave their region. ¹⁸And as He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was begging Him that he might accompany Him. ¹⁹And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." ²⁰And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.*

This always amazes me. The people are scared of Jesus. They ask him to leave. The man who was rescued would probably do anything for Jesus. But Jesus tells him to stay with his people. Sounds like he became a pretty good evangelist.

Let's review.

- 1) Gerasenes? Why Gerasenes? Well that is where the legion is and this single interaction with Jesus became an opportunity for entire region to hear and presumably believe in Jesus. These are all gentiles. We often think Jesus only minister to the Jews, which is simply not true.
- 2) Legion? It is hard for me to imagine two thousand or more demons possessing one man. It's simply beyond my ability to comprehend. I'm sure people all over this region knew about this man in the tombs.

- 3) Fear! When the power of God is at work it is scary. The Disciples are scared when Jesus calm the seas in the last chapter. The people of Gerasenes are scared of Jesus because He cast out the legion of demons. But we should fear God. God is God. A Reverent Fear is necessary if you are to give God the honor He deserves. Don't forget how powerful our God is.

Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen

Let me leave you with this, when Jesus shows up with all the power of God, it is pretty overwhelming for people. We see this over and over again in the scriptures. Remember who God is. We should never be casual toward God. The same God that calms the seas and casts out thousands of demons, is the same God we worship. I for one am very thankful that I can reverently fear the Lord. It helps me to keep my life in perspective.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.