

Sermon Notes

Jesus confronts demons

A few things I need to remember from hearing today's Bible Reading and teaching.

The Bible Reading

Mark 5:1-20

¹ They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one

was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had

seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.

¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed. (NIV)

A prayer

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me about you from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

The Bible Study

Questions:

Read Mark 4:35-41 to see what happened before they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes.

1. What did the disciples think about Jesus before and after he calmed the storm?

2. Why does Jesus rebuke them? How did this experience prepare them for what happened next?

Read Mark 5:1-20

(Note that this event took place in Gentile territory, part of a region known as the Decapolis or the Ten Cities.)

3. Contrast the way people treated the man with an impure spirit, with what Jesus did for him. Why did the people want Jesus to leave their region?

4. Why did Jesus want the healed man to stay behind? Compare what Jesus told him to do with what he went on to do. (**Read Mark 7:31-37.** This time, the people of the Decapolis welcomed Jesus and expected him to heal a deaf man. It seems the man in Mark 5 had done his job well!)

5. If you had one minute to tell someone what Jesus has done for you, what would you say? (That's about 150 words!)

6. What have you learned about Jesus in this passage? How will that affect the way you deal with things that you find confronting in your life?