

POWER OVER DEMONS

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—January 8th, 2023

Mark 5:1-20

(ESV)

[1] They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. [2] And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. [3] He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, [4] for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. [5] Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. [6] And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. [7] And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." [8] For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" [9] And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." [10] And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. [11] Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, [12] and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." [13] So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

[14] The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. [15] And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. [16] And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. [17] And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. [18] As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. [19] And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." [20] And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

INTRODUCTION

Satan is constantly seeking ways to rob humans of the dignity once given to us by God; but God is constantly working to restore human dignity for our good and for his glory.

- **1 John 3:8**—*The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.*

DESTITUTION

The country of the Gerasenes

- East of the Sea of Galilee
- Gentile country

The Devil loves to seclude men from one another.

- *Ekklesia* = church/assembly
- **Hebrews 10:24–25**—*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

The Devil loves to rob men of their dignity.

- Nakedness in the Bible indicates the exposure of shame.
- **Genesis 2:25**—*And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.*
- **Genesis 3:7**—*Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.*

- **Colossians 2:15**—*He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

On the cross Jesus took on the shame of the shameful.

- **Hebrews 12:2**—*...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

On the cross Jesus became destitute for the destitute.

- **Isaiah 53:8–9**

*By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
[9] And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

- **Revelation 20:10**—*...and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

DIGNITY

They see what Jesus offers to everyone—transformation.

- **Romans 12:2**—*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind...*
- **1 Corinthians 5:17**—*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Nearness to Jesus necessitates transformation.

- **John 3:19**—*And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.*
- **Hebrews 4:13**—*And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*
- **Colossians 1:13–14**—*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

When we truly meet Christ, transformation takes place at a heart level.

- **Luke 4:18–19**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
[19] to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

Our experience in Christ must go from transformation to proclamation.