

Sermon Outline

In Mark 5:1-20 we are shown 4 examples of authority.

- I. Satan shows no mercy as he exercises improper authority over a man (vs. 1-5).
- II. Jesus exercises ultimate authority over Satan and his demons (vs. 6-14).
- III. The townspeople exercise improper authority by rejecting Jesus' authority (vs. 15-17).
- IV. In the exercise of His authority Jesus shows great mercy to the man and the world marvels (vs. 18-20).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 31, 2015

Passage: Mark 5:1-20

Memory Passage: Mark 5:19-20

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 5:1-20.** Why do you think demons/unclean spirits (remember, for Mark they are interchangeable terms) so often immediately come to Jesus when he arrives on the scene (cf. 1:23)?
- (b) What does Mark’s in-depth description of this man (vs. 3-5) teach you about the power of demons?
- (c) How do you feel about this man when reading this description? How would you act around him?
- (d) How did the townspeople treat him, and do you think their treatment was appropriate?
- (e) What would happen to this man if he showed up on the streets of Cabot?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 5:1-20.** Why did this man consistently cut himself?
- (b) Did the man himself, in spite of the demons, throw himself down in front of Jesus, or was this the action of the demons?
- (c) What is the demon asking Jesus in v.7 (remember what you learned about this phrase in your study of 1:23)?
- (d) Why does the demon adjure Jesus “by God” and why is he concerned about being tormented (see parallel in Matt. 8:29)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 5:1-20.** What verbs does Mark use to describe the way the demon communicated with Jesus, and what does this tell you about the demon’s understanding of their relationship to Jesus?
- (b) Why does Jesus engage the demon by asking his name?
- (c) Why did the demon fear being cast “out of the country” and why did it prefer to be allowed to “enter” the pigs?
- (d) How would you answer this objection to Jesus’ action: “Why did Jesus cause the death of all those poor pigs and the loss of so much money by their owners! This is immoral!”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 5:1-20.** Why were the townspeople “afraid” (v. 15) and why did they ask Him to “depart from their region?”
- (b) How would you have responded if you were one of the herdsmen? One of the townspeople? The man freed from demons?
- (c) Why does Jesus not allow this man to “be with him?” After all, isn’t this a good desire the man has?
- (d) Why is this man told to “go and tell” rather than to remain silent (i.e. the secrecy that has been so prevalent in Mark)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Mark 5:1-20.** How does this passage influence your thinking about (1) evangelism, (2) ministering to those our community rejects, (3) giving testimony about the work Jesus does, (4) the existence & power of demons and your response to them, (5) the character of Jesus, (6) the way people will respond to miraculous displays of God’s power, and (7) your own testimony of God’s mercy in your life.

DATE: May 31, 2015

PASSAGE: Mark 5:1-20

The Power & Mercy of the Lord