



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #18

Sunday, September 1st, 2024

cLast week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:

- The last time we were in our ‘NOW’ sermon series, we looked at Mark 4:35-41, with a sermon entitled ***‘Lord Over the Storm!’***
 - It was a simple message, but a great reminder that no matter what storms we have been in, are in, or will be in, that Jesus Christ is Lord over those storms.
- I asked the question in that message, ***How does Jesus show us that He is Lord over the storms in our lives based on what happens in this passage?***
 - **Point 1: *Peace before the Storm. (V. 35-36)***
 - **Point 2: *Panic During the Storm. (V. 37-38)***
 - **Point 3: *Power Over the Storm. (V. 39)***
 - **Point 4: *Progress After the Storm. (V. 40-41)***

- This morning, we will see how Jesus is also Lord over the demons as we will see Him deal with a demon possessed man.

‘Deliverance from Demon Possession!’

Mark 5:1-20

Sermon in a Sentence:

We can see the deliverance from Demon Possession that Jesus brings in this text by looking at how Jesus Faces the Demonic World, He Fights the Destructive Wretch (Demons), and then Frees the Delivered man to go worldwide proclaiming the Gospel.

Intro:

- This morning we have arrived at chapter 5 of Mark’s Gospel as we continue in our ‘NOW’ series, going verse-by-verse, through Mark’s Gospel.
 - ***This morning we arrive at a narrative where Mark describes in detail, when Jesus delivered a man from demon possession.***
 - ***Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39, parallel this passage in Mark.***
 - It is a well documented narrative that is shared in all the synoptics, which I believe is an indication of the impact it had on the NT Church.

- *One of the main things that I believe this passage of scripture shows us plainly and clearly, is that Jesus has clear authority and power over the demonic world.*
 - *But this passage also shows us that the demonic world is real, and not to be taken lightly.*
- C.S. Lewis once said this powerful statement in regards to demons and the demonic world itself ‘*There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both eros, and hail a materialist or magician with the same delight.*’
 - We must be careful to not fall in the camp of believing that demons don’t exist, they do.
 - We must also be careful to not fantasize and become mesmerized with them.
 - *But must also remember, that the apostle John defined why Jesus came into this world in 1st John 3:8:*
 - ‘Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.’
 - *Of course we know that Jesus came to save sinners as apart of God’s overall redemption*

plan, but part of that is defeating the devil himself.

- We’ve already seen in Mark 1:25 and Mark 3:11, that Mark includes times where Jesus has casted out demons. But, in my opinion, this is by far, Mark’s most graphic account.
- *In Matthew and Luke’s account of this same narrative, many details are left out.*
- Scholar James Edwards said ‘*Matthew in particular, crops Mark’s story from 20 verses to 6 verses, leaving only the core of an exorcism.*’
- Why is it that Mark’s accounts contains more details?
 - *Let us not forget that Peter was most likely over the shoulder of Mark as he wrote this, encouraging him not to leave any important details out.*
- So this morning as we read and study Mark 5:1-20, I want us to affirm the biblically reality that satan and demons are real.
 - But, I do not want us to develop or promote an unhealthy fascination with the demonic world.
 - Scholar Kent Hughes said this about the purpose in preaching this text properly: ‘*Our goal is to reveal satan’s purpose and then to demonstrate*

Jesus' power over evil forces and his ability to heal the harm that they have done.'

- I echo this same goal as we read this text this morning.

****Read Mark 5:1-20****

Question to Ask:

What important things can we learn about the deliverance Jesus provides from this text?

Point 1: *Jesus Faces the Demonic World. (V. 1-5)*

- Remember that after Jesus calmed the Sea in Mark 4:35-41, the disciples asked this question in verse 41:
 - ***“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”***
 - They asked this question, and now Jesus was about to give them a clear answer, but from a source that they certainly were not expecting...
- ***Verse 1 shows us that the next morning, after the horrific storm, they arrived on the other side of the sea to a region called Gerasenes.***
 - This would have been the same region commonly called Decapolis which in the greek can literally be translated ‘the ten cities’.
 - This is a reference to the ten city-states that were originally settled after the great conquest of Alexander the Great.
 - ***The location that is recorded in verse 1 is important because it does show anticipation for the gentile mission that***

is to come, and this is the first account of Jesus that is recorded outside of Palestine.

- For the third time in this series, we are taking a deep dive into demons and Jesus casting them out. I said this when I preached from Mark 1:21-34, let me remind you of this again.

- I believe that demons and evil spirits can ***oppress*** believers, but I do not believe that they can ***possess*** them.

- I believe there are **3** things we need to consider as Jesus steps out of the boat that morning and faces the Demonic World.

- ***Satan will try to Degrade People Made in God's Image. (V. 2)***

- ‘And when Jesus[b] had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.’
- To the jewish community this verse screams ‘unclean’.

- ***There were 3 specific things that would have qualified this man as unclean to jewish people:***

- #1: Possessed by Demons.
- #2: Lived in Tombs.
 - According to Jewish law, anyone who had physical

chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.’

- ***Since satan cannot possess believers in Christ, I truly believe he goes after those that are not yet believers to derail them from allowing the image of God inside of them to grow and walking in Him.***

- Verses 3&4 get graphic and our hearts automatically go out to this man because may we not forget this is a human being we are speaking of.
- Dr Daniel Aiken said this of this man’s reality ***‘This man lived in the tombs. He often had been bound with shackles and chains but had snapped them off. Deranged and utterly depraved in his behavior, this man was not a maniac but a demoniac.’***
 - Notice this demon possessed man had been completely driven away from society as a whole.
 - He lived a life of filth, among dead bodies, was lonely, and constant terror from demon possession.
- ***Because of the demons in him, he was able to tear the chains apart that others had undoubtedly attempted to put on him.***

- The fact in verse 4 that his strength is mentioned, shows that it was a real threat to society.

- ****Word Study****

- The english word ‘subdue’ comes from a greek word ***‘Damazo’*** *δαμάσαι* which only 4 times in the NT, and means to tame and subdue.
- James uses this same word in James 3:7, with the context of taming a wild beast.
 - ‘For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,’

- ***I believe Mark uses this particular word to emphasize just how far satan had derailed this man.***

- To the point of acting like a wild beast.

- ****Word Study****

- To understand this man’s situation, if you go down to verses 16 & 18 of our text you will see and realize that it is translated ‘demon possessed’ but

in verse 18 of the ESV translation, it's plural, demons.

- ***Some translations translate this to give the idea it was one demon...***
 - In the greek it is translated in verse 16 and 18, from a greek word **'Daimonizomai'** δαιμονιζομένω which literally means demonized with gives the idea that it was more than one demon.
 - This was an extreme case of demonization.
- ***Satan will try to Destroy People before they realize their Need for God. (V. 5)***
 - 'Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.'
 - ***There is much debate among scholars of what the significance of this man cutting himself with stones.***
 - Some will say it is pagan worship.
 - Others will say he was trying to let the demons out of his body by making sores for them to exit.
 - ***I personally believe this was a failed attempt for him to take his own life and stop the unbearable pain of demon possession that he was experiencing.***

- While we do not regularly see this in our culture, we need to keep in mind this was extreme demon possession.
- I think you can make an argument for demon possession in those who constantly oppose and speak against God and promote violence constantly.
 - ***The apostle Paul reminds us in 2nd Corinthians 11:14-15, that demon possession does not always look this dark...***
 - 'And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.'
- Demonized men and women (unbelievers), can appear normal and conventional.
 - ***Satan and his demons hate God, so they will try to possess those that don't know God and oppress those who do know God and follow after Him.***

- *The situation seemed dark, but the Light had just stepped onto the shore...*

Point 2: *Jesus Fights the Destructive Wretch. (V. 6-13)*

- The destructive wretch here that Jesus is fighting are the demons inside of this man, not the man himself.
 - *In the Jewish Talmud (law), they gave four signs of a person going mad, and therefore being cast out of society.*
 - #1: Walking around at night.
 - #2: Spending the night on a grave/tomb.
 - #3: Tearing one's clothes apart.
 - #4: Destroying anything given to them.
 - This man certainly met that criteria and I'm sure that as the disciples took care of the boat, they were mesmerized and maybe afraid.
 - *But Jesus was about to answer the question they had asked just hours before in Mark 4:41.*
 - *He was going to show them who he really was.*
 - There are **5** things to point out concerning Jesus fights the destructive wretches (demons), in this man.
- *The Approach. (V. 6a)*
 - 'And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran'
 - *It's important to note that in Matthew's account, in Matthew 8:28, he mentions two men that are demon possessed.*

- While Mark and Luke only mention the one, which is the one being discussed in this passage.
- So, why did Mark and Luke not mention the other man? My guess is this one was much more severe and they decided to focus on him.

○ *The fact that this man saw Jesus from afar and came to meet him can mean two potential things...*

- #1: The demons were trying to prevent Jesus from coming into the reason, they had scared everyone off from even approaching this man anymore.
- #2: The demon possessed man may have heard about Jesus, and knew He was the only one that could help him, either way, the actions of this man tell us more about his approaching Him.

● *The Actions. (V. 6b-7)*

- '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.'
- There are two actions that the demon possessed man does.
 - *#1: He falls down before Jesus.*
 - **Word Study**

- Some translations that you have say kneeled, and the ESV says fell.
- It is translated from the greek word *'Proskuneo'* **προσεκύνησεν** which means to fall down in worship.
- *But let me be clear here, the demons are not falling down because they are motivated to repent (demons can't repent), but because they are recognizing the judge, who is sovereign over them.*
- ***Kneeling in this case was not worship, but the acknowledgement of the authority of the Son of God.***
- 'You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!' James 2:19
- ***No one in that region could tame this man, but the very presence of Jesus brings him to his knees.***
- ***#2: He screamed, and then spoke.***
 - '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.'
 - The demons are the ones who are addressing Jesus through the man's voice.
 - ***In the greek text, the tense that the greek word translated for crying is in, gives the indication that there was a loud cry, possibly a howl of sorts, before the demons started speaking through the man's voice.***
 - ***May we not forget that these are fallen angels who were once in Heaven until they joined satan's rebellion and were cast out of Heaven.***
 - They know exactly who Jesus is and they know of His sovereignty.
 - ***The fact that they address Him as 'Jesus, Son of the Most High God' is affirmation of His deity and authority.***
 - What do the words that the demons speak through this man mean?
 - The demons do not want Jesus to torment them and send them to

the abyss, where other fallen angels were held captive according to Luke 8:31 and 2nd Peter 2:4.

- ‘And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.’ Luke 8:31
- ‘For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell[a] and committed them to chains[b] of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;’ 2nd Peter 2:4
- *They are pleading before the Lord that they not be sentenced to the pit, yet, they want more time...*

- *JM said ‘Though the time of final judgment for fallen angels has not yet come, their reign of terror on earth has its end. One day satan and his entire hose will be cast into the lake of fire, in which they will suffer eternal torment.’*

- ‘And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.’ Revelation 14:11

- *The Authority. (V. 8)*

- ‘For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”
- *Here we see that Jesus casts out the demon possessed man.*

- *Showing His authority, and Mark is getting ready to explain what Jesus decides to do with these demons.*

- *The Appalling Number. (V. 9-10)*

- ‘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.’

- *It seems that while Jesus is casting the demons out, he asks them their name...*

- When the answer is given, it’s appalling. It’s important to know that this is not the man giving his name, but the demons still speaking through the man.

- The demons answer with the name *Legion*.

- *In this time period a roman legion would have been equivalent to 6,000 roman soldiers on foot, with 120 calvarymen.*

- Scholar kent hughes said *‘To the jewish mind, ‘legion’ brought an image of great numbers, efficient organization, and relentless strength. A host of evil*

spirits leered upon Christ from behind the poor man's wild eyes.'

- As I mentioned Luke 8:31 a second ago, the demons begged Jesus to not throw them to the abyss to be held until judgment day.
 - ***Let us be clear, Jesus could have thrown them wherever He wanted to.***
- I believe the demons had the desire of staying in the gentile region, due to the fact that the local culture there had a large number of pagan religious practices.
 - ***The demons see the pigs off in the distance, and this is where it really gets crazy.***
- ***The Agony of the Pigs. (V. 11-13)***
 - '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.'
 - ***The demons know that Jesus can do whatever He wants them, so when they see the pigs, they see a quick alternative to be able to stay in the region.***
 - At the beginning of this passage we were told the man was cutting himself, and I

shared that I believe the man was trying to commit suicide to end his pain.

- ***I believe that claim is supported by what happens to and with the pigs.***
- A human being can fight against demons even if they aren't saved, because a human is made in the image of God. An animal is not.
 - ***So what the demons wanted to do with the man, is now going to be done in the pigs.***
- ***Now the question arises, why did Jesus allow the demons to go into the pigs and the pigs were killed by the demons?***
 - I believe Scholar William Lane provides a good explanation to this:
 - ***'Jesus recognized the time of the ultimate vanquishment of the demons had not yet come; his encounter and triumph over the demonic does not yet put an end to Satan's power. It is the pledge and the symbol of that definitive triumph, but the time when that triumph will be fully realized is yet deferred. It must await the appointment of God. Therefore, Jesus allows the demons to continue their destructive work,***

but not upon a man. The second element is related to this: Jesus allowed the demons to enter the swine to indicate beyond question that their real purpose was the total destruction of their host.'

- Remember Church, demons do not play nice.
- *I'm sure the jaw of the disciples dropped to the ground as they saw 2,000 pigs drown in the sea.*
 - Jesus fought the destructive nature of these wretches.

Point 3: *Jesus Frees the Delivered to go Worldwide. (V. 14-20)*

- Jesus delivered this man from the demons and just as it happened with every miracle Jesus performed, people found out.
 - *The reality of this man is what Paul said in 2nd Corinthians 5:17:*
 - 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'
 - People had not seen pigs driven into the sea and that had not seen a man so physically distraught, changed in this way before.
 - *But what I love about these verses is that Jesus didn't deliver this man to*

attract more crowds (He was trying to get away from crowds), but He had delivered this man so that the delivered man might go worldwide with the Gospel and his testimony of what Jesus had done.

- There are 2 things to point out concerning the impact of Jesus deliverance that day...
- **The Commotion. (V. 14-17)**
 - '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[c] 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[d] to depart from their region.'
 - Once the pigs ran off into the sea, the herdsmen, (having lost property) went into the city and country and telling others what happened.
 - *Notice here that instead of being excited for the man that he was freed from demon possession, they are overcome with fear.*
 - *The locals probably couldn't even recognize the man because they were used to him running around and being out of his mind.*

- The phrase ‘in his right mind’, gives the indication that Jesus shared the Gospel with him and that he had been saved from his sin.
 - ***This man that was delivered was probably happy, due to the fact that he asks to go with Jesus.***
 - ***But the townspeople ask Jesus to leave.***
 - ***Jesus can make those that oppose Him very uncomfortable because He has power that they do not have.***
 - I think the townspeople wanted Jesus to leave for 2 primary reasons.
 - #1: They lost a commercial business with the pigs drowning in the sea.
 - #2: And they feared the One who casted out thousands of demons with just one word.
 - ***So, if Jesus can do that demon possessed unsaved person (at first, then came to saving faith), then what CAN'T Jesus do with you and I?***
 - ***There is nothing that Jesus cannot do. But, you have to allow to.***
- ***The Charge. (V. 18-20)***
 - ‘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.’
- This delivered man has been saved by Jesus, but it does not stop the charge that He is going to give them man.
 - ***The delivered man asked to go with Jesus, but shockingly, Jesus said no, why is that?***
 - ***I think we need to see that Jesus had an evangelistic mission/charge in mind for Him.***
 - ***Jesus wanted this man to proclaim in His community all that God had done.***
 - I think this is because the people in the community knew what he would have been like before. If he went with Jesus, all he would have is a verbal testimony with people that had never known Him.
 - ***Due to the reaction of the town’s people, it seems that the community was very spiritually lost, which I think is why Jesus wanted Him to stay there and witness, which is what occurred.***

Conclusion:

- I know this morning’s message and scripture text is not the ‘feel good Sunday sermon’.

- *But, it's in God's Word. His inerrant, infallible and inspired Word.*
- As we close this morning, I want to share a few truths about demons...
 - *But let me remind you, that if Jesus can delivered this demon possessed man, He can deliver you from absolutely anything. Call on Him today.*
- #1: Demons are real and dangerous.
- #2: Demons can possess non-believers, but only oppress believers.
- #3: Demons can speak through people and take control of their bodies.
- #4: Demons are fallen angels and powerful spiritual beings.
- #5: Demons do recognize and are subject to appropriate spiritual authority.
- #6: Jesus gave the command, and the demons were forced to obey. You too can give the command in the name of Jesus and they have to obey.
 - *Jesus delivered this man, and He wants to deliver you today if you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior.*
 - The altar is open.