

## RTS Women's Study: The Gospel of Mark

### #10: Mark 5:1-20: The Return of the King: To Rule Over Demons

Intro: "Who You Gonna Call?"

#### I. Our Enemy is Powerful and Terrifying (v.1-5)

##### A. Demons are Real

- Jesus met "a man with an unclean spirit" (v.2)
- "For we do not struggle against flesh and blood, but against . . . the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil." Eph 6:12

##### B. Demons are Powerful

- "And no one could bind him anymore . . . No one had the strength to subdue him" (v.4)
- Demons are supernatural beings, able to give strength and power
- Apparently at one point this man *could* be bound, but not anymore. Demonic forces can progress and advance in an individual—they are now "legion" (v.9)

##### C. Demons are Destructive

- This man's life was not improved, blessed, or made more fruitful
- Instead, he lived in the "tombs" and "was always crying out and cutting himself" (v.5)
- Key point: Satan hates *humans* because they reflect God's glory and are in his image
  - Christianity has always had a high view of the dignity and value of human beings
  - It is not angels that God came to save, but human beings! (Heb 2:16)
  - "Remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship . . . There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal." C.S. Lewis

#### II. Jesus is More Powerful and More Terrifying (v.6-13)

##### A. The Demons are reverent toward Jesus (v.6)

- It looks at first like there will be an enormous clash: "When he saw Jesus...he ran."
- But quickly the demoniac "fell down before him."
- This is a symbolic picture of Phil 2:10: "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

##### B. The Demons are Terrified by Jesus (v.7)

- The demons immediately recognize Jesus' real identity: "Son of the most high God"
  - While the Gospel of Mark shows many who miss Jesus' true identity, the demons are always correct!
  - "Even the demons believe and shudder." James 2:19

- The demons beg for Jesus not to “torment” them
    - Someday Jesus will punish demons in the final judgment—they know this and are perhaps fearful that day has arrived
    - Beware when you meet someone whom demons are scared of!
- C. The Demons Submit to Jesus (v.8-13)
- They “begged” Jesus to allow them to go into the pigs
  - Jesus gave them “permission” to do so
  - Remember, no harm can ever come to you without God’s sovereign permission!
- III. Different Responses to a Powerful and Terrifying Jesus (v.14-20)
- A. Fear and Distance (v.14-17)
- When they saw the demoniac in his right mind, they were “afraid” and begged Jesus to “depart from their region”
  - Like the calming of the storm episode (4:35-41), the fear didn’t go away but was just shifted to Jesus!
  - Some people, when faced with God’s holiness, want to be as far away as possible
- B. Intimacy and Proclamation (v.18-20)
- But the healed demoniac wanted to “be with him”
    - Yes, Jesus is holy. But the glory of the gospel is that a holy God draws near to sinners
    - Intimacy with the God of the universe is the privilege of following Jesus
  - The demoniac is told “Go...and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you”
    - Notice the word “mercy.” Jesus didn’t have to save the man. He didn’t deserve to be saved. But God showed grace to him.
    - Evangelism is just telling your story—how God loved and saved you

### Discussion Groups

1. Do you feel like you recognize that your primary enemy is spiritual and demonic? If not, what are steps you can take to help that realization be more prominent in your life?
2. We often think of Jesus as meek and mild, but this passage reminds us he is powerful and terrifying. In what ways do we need that message too? And how would that change our lives?
3. Share honestly about how you are doing in evangelism these days? How might this passage encourage you to more openly share your faith?