

**Introduction:** When we look at our world today, we see people taking extreme positions and vilifying each other, while it seems very few people are attempting to listen, understand and reconcile. We see violence and wars without regard to the enemy, and a seeming indifference to the plight of innocent non-combatants. We see greed and consumerism chasing each other in a vicious circle. \*\*\* And a growing segment of people, threatening to become a majority, is practicing a lifestyle of selfish immorality, where anything I want is acceptable. But, there is one thing that fewer and fewer people are tolerating. Faithful relationships between a husband and wife who desire to raise children who will contribute to the common good of all people. Such people are considered a danger to the freedom of the majority. \*\*\* We must all understand there is no political, educational, legal, corporate or charitable endeavor that can change any of this. It is a human problem, and humans can NOT change it. \*\*\* Church people must understand that everything that is falling apart is the result of a spiritual problem. Christians should be wielding spiritual weapons (Ephesians 6:10-18) because ‘the whole world is in the power of the evil one’ (1 John 5:19, RSV). \*\*\* There is ONLY One Person who can change all this. He is the Savior of the world that has for the most part rejected Him and is under condemnation due to unbelief (John 3:16-18). That is why our Gospel passage today is so important. What Jesus did to the many unclean spirits tormenting a poor soul, He can still do today. Will we believe Him enough to engage in spiritual warfare, especially intercessory prayer? \*\*\* He is also the One whom The Covenant God said would come from David’s line of descendants who would rule forever in LOVE and Truth. \*\*\* Let’s find all this, and more, in our texts.

**I. Jesus meets a man with an unclean spirit who could not be bound who runs to Him, worships Him and calls Him Son of God; and Jesus is commanding the unclean spirit to come out. (Mark 5:1-10)**

A. Jesus meets a man with an unclean spirit southeast of Galilee who could not be bound or subdued and was harming himself. (Verses 1-5)

1. They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gādārānōs. (Verse 1)

*Setting:* Jesus and His disciples come to a place southeast of Galilee with a non-Jewish population.

2. After He came out of the ship, at once, he confronted Him from the tombs, a man with an unclean spirit, who was dwelling among the tombs. (Verses 2-3a)

*Man to Jesus:* Before Jesus could catch His breath, He is accosted by a contentious man, defiled by a spirit, who was living among the tombs of dead people.

3. No man, no more, not at all, was being able to bind him for often he was bound with chains hand and foot which he tore and broke in pieces; no man was being able to subdue him. (Verses 3b-4)

*Not bound:* Using a triple negative, we are told this man had superhuman strength to break all chains.

*Nor subdued:* Further, it was impossible for men to subdue him.

4. Always, night and day, in the tombs and mountains, he was crying out, bruising himself with stones. (Verse 5)

*Self-destructive:* He was always crying out everywhere, and inflicting harm on himself. This is a pitiful portrait of the effects of demon possession.

B. He ran to Jesus and worshipped Him, addressing Him as Son of God; and, Jesus was commanding the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (Verses 6-10)

1. Having seen Jesus from afar, he ran and worshipped Him. (Verse 6)

*Poor man:* The pitiful human being, suffering under the defiling spirit, saw something in Jesus that moved him to run to Jesus and worship Him.

2. Having cried with a great voice, he is saying, ‘What to Thee and to me, Jesus Son of God Most High? I am commanding Thee, by God, not me Thou may torment’. (Verse 7)

*Unclean spirit:* Now the unclean spirit addresses Jesus. He starts by inferring they are enemies with nothing in common. He rightly addresses Jesus as The Savior, The Son of God Most High!

*Not torment:* He then strongly requests that Jesus not torture him.

3. Because He was saying to him, ‘Thou must come out, unclean spirit, from the man’; and He was asking him, ‘What is thy name?’ (Verses 8-9a)

*Jesus commanding him out:* The unclean spirit did not want to be tormented, because Jesus was commanding him to come out of the man, and he knew of Jesus’ power! Then Jesus asked his name.

4. He is saying to Him, ‘Legion, for we are being many’; and, he was requesting Him much that not He would send out of the country. (Verses 9b-10)

*Legion:* A Roman legion had more than six thousand foot-soldiers and seven hundred horsemen.

*Plea:* The lead demon is begging Jesus not to be expelled from this region.

**II. Jesus permits the unclean spirits to enter pigs; and, people see the man sitting in his right mind; Jesus tells him to proclaim what The Lord did for him; He is the chosen servant from David’s line. (Mark 5:11-20; Psalm 89:1-4)**

A. Jesus permitted the unclean spirits to enter a herd of pigs who were drowned; then people see the demon-possessed man: sitting, dressed and in his right mind. (Mark 5:11-15)

1. But it was being there on the mountain, a great herd of pigs, being fed. (Verse 11)

*Re-set:* We now learn that on a nearby mountain a great herd of pigs is being tended.

2. They requested Him, saying, ‘Thou must send us into the pigs that we may enter into them’. (Verse 12)

*Request:* The legion of unclean spirits request that Jesus send them into pigs. They are willing to trade a human body for the bodies of unclean animals.

3. He permitted to them, and the unclean spirits entered into the pigs; the herd rushed impetuously down the steep bank into the sea (about two thousand), and they were being drowned in the sea. (Verse 13)

*Permitted:* Jesus granted the request of the unclean spirits and they entered the herd of pigs. Two thousand is less than a legion, but still a substantial number.

*Drowning:* What power Jesus has to command two thousand demons out of a tormented man! And, because of what the pigs did, they are also disembodied. Jesus is amazing!

4. Those tending the pigs fled and told it in the city and the countryside; and they went out to see what is being that had happened. (Verse 14)

**Herders tell:** The pig herders went everywhere telling everyone what happened.  
The verbs now indicate at this moment we join the story as it continues to unfold.

5. And they are coming to Jesus, and they are seeing the one being demon-possessed, sitting and having been dressed and being in his right mind, the one had been having the legion; and they were afraid. (Verse 15)

**Right mind:** Non-Jews are seeking Jesus to see Him and the man who was transformed from a tortured self-abusing soul into a new person. He is sitting calmly, dressed in regular clothes, and has a sound mind so he may know God and follow His ways.

**Made to fear:** But, these non-Jewish people are extremely afraid of Jesus' power.

Let us be reverently amazed at His power and worship Him for it.

### **Jesus has unlimited spiritual power**

- B. Jesus prepares to leave at the people's request and tells the formerly demon-possessed man to proclaim what The Lord did for him in the Ten Cities: all were amazed. (Mark 5:16-20)

1. They related to them, those having seen, how it happened to the one demon-possessed, and the pigs. (Verse 16)

**Miracle story:** As people came from the city, those who saw what Jesus did for the demon-possessed man, were relating all the details of the miracle to them.

2. And they began to request Him to go away from their region. (Verse 17)

**Go away:** Why could they not abide the miracle? From the 1972 Jethro Tull album 'Thick as a Brick': We will be geared to the ordinary, rather than the exceptional'. That may be what is behind the request. Jesus disrupted the patterns of their everyday lives.

3. Having gotten into the ship, the one having been demon-possessed was requesting Him that he might be continuing with Him. (Verse 18)

**Jesus complies:** Jesus acted on the request of the people and prepared to go away from the region.

**Delivered man:** But, the man whom Jesus delivered continuously requested to always be with Jesus.

He knows the greatest blessing is to be continually with God's Son, Savior.

**Application:** If we have experienced Jesus' deliverance we should always desire to be with Him.

4. Not He allowed him, but He says to him, 'Thou must be going to thy house to those (who are) thine; and, thou must proclaim how much The Lord to thee had done and He was merciful to thee. (Verse 19)

**Jesus refuses:** Jesus refuses his request, but ...

**Assignment:** ... He gives him a big assignment: the delivered man is to tell all who know him what The LORD Jesus did for him in His compassionate mercy!

**Application:** We must obey Jesus by telling many others what He did for us IN His compassion. This could be the first step in them becoming His disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

5. He went away and he began to proclaim in Ten Cities how much He did for him, Jesus! And they were marveling – amazed! (Verse 20)

**Immediate obedience:** The delivered man obeyed and went on a tour of forty miles south of Galilee.

**Amazed:** Those who heard about what Jesus did while he was touring were amazed at Jesus!

**Application:** We must be as amazed by Jesus' power over demons as the people living south of the Sea of Galilee were by the account of how Jesus cast out demons because of His LOVE for tortured humanity.

### **Jesus has unlimited spiritual power**

- C. A choir leader leads singing about The LOVE and Faithfulness of Yahweh concerning the eternal chosen servant from David. (Psalm 89: 1-4)

**Heading:** This Psalm was composed by Ethan, one of three Levites given leadership in worship music under David (1 Chronicles 15:17-19). A *maskil* is for instructing God's people in wisdom. Wisdom is needed to live the lessons of the Gospel story.

1. The steadfast loves of Yahweh forever I will sing / to generations I will proclaim the faithfulness of Thee with my mouth. (Verse 1)

**Sing forever:** Ethan pluralizes love to mean God's strong and transforming LOVE. Faithfulness can also mean Truth.

He has confidence God will preserve his inspired song for generations.

**Application:** We must desire to proclaim the LOVE and Truth of The Covenant God when we worship.

2. For I said, forever steadfast love will be built up / as the heavens, Thou will establish Thy faithfulness in them. (Verse 2)

**Established forever:** Ethan states The LOVE and faithfulness of Yahweh will be forever built up, and established everywhere in His Creation.

3. I have made a covenant to My chosen one / I have sworn to David My servant. (Verse 3)

**Messiah Covenant:** When Nathan gave David God's specific word David would not build God's Temple, God said that the Eternal King would be a descendant of David (2 Samuel 7:4-16).

4. Forever I will establish Thy descendant / and I have built for all generations Thy Throne. Selah. (Verse 4)

**Rule forever:** Taken as a whole, this stanza of the Psalm says God will establish His Messiah IN LOVE and Faithfulness. And, He will bless all who receive Messiah in humble, obedient faith.

*Messiah is established in love and faithfulness*

**Conclusion:** Jesus meets a man tormented by unclean spirits who lived a self-destructive life. But, Jesus commanded them to leave the man and allowed them to enter a herd of pigs who drowned themselves. When this was reported, people found the formerly possessed man sitting, dressed and in his right mind. Then when the fearful people asked Jesus to leave, He sent the man to Ten Cities to tell all The Lord did for him. ALL were amazed because Jesus IS The Eternal King prophesied from the line of David.

### **Jesus has unlimited spiritual power**