

117. Jesus Heals a Man in Gergesenes (Mark 5:1-20)

Prayer: Lord God, You rule heaven and earth, Your power created everything. The earth, sea, sky, also the spiritual world, You rule everything. In this study, make our faith stronger to trust You. Help us remember You are powerful to save us in any trouble. Remind us that You will protect us from all evil. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Mark 5:1-5. Jesus and His disciples arrived on the other side of the lake. That country was named Gerasenes. Jesus came out of the boat. Immediately, a man came and met Jesus. The man lived in a graveyard, and he had evil spirits in him. No one could tie him up, even with a chain. Often, people tried to tie him with chains, but he broke the chains. No one was strong enough to control him. Always, night and day, in the graveyard and in the mountains, the man screamed and cut himself with rocks.

- Where were Jesus and His disciples now? Israel or another country?
- Who was the first person to meet Jesus? Would you want to meet this man?

Mark 5:6-10 The man saw Jesus far away. He ran up to Jesus and bowed down. He yelled, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God, why are You here? I beg you in God's name, don't make me suffer!" The man said that because Jesus said, "Evil, unclean spirit, come out of the man!" Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" The man said, "My name is Legion, because we are many spirits." The spirits begged Jesus, they didn't want Jesus to send them out of the country.

- Did Jesus ask first if the man wanted to be healed?
- How did the man know who Jesus was?
- How many evil spirits lived in this man?

Mark 5:11-13. On that mountain, a large herd of pigs was eating. The evil spirits begged Jesus, "Send us into the pigs. We want to enter them." Jesus let them go. All the evil spirits entered the pigs. All the pigs, about 2,000, ran down the mountain into the lake and drowned.

- Why do you think the demons wanted to enter the pigs? If Jesus didn't send them into the pigs, where else would they have gone?
- When the demons entered the pigs, what happened? Why do you think the demons did that?

Mark 5:14-17. The men taking care of the pigs saw what happened. They ran and told everyone what happened. All the people came out to see. The people saw Jesus and saw the man now sitting down, wearing clothes, in his right mind. That same man before had so many demons and he scared people, but now he was fine. The men who took care of the pigs explained what happened to the man and what happened to the pigs. Then the people begged Jesus to leave.

- Did Jesus care more about the pigs, or about the man who had the demons?
- Did the people care more about the pigs, or about the man?

Mark 5:18-20 Jesus went into the boat again. The man begged Jesus to let him go with Jesus. Jesus said, "No. Go home to your people. Tell them the wonderful things the Lord did for you. Tell them how God showed you mercy." The man left and told everyone in that area the wonderful things Jesus did for him. Everyone was amazed.

- What does it mean, to "follow Jesus?" Does that mean we have to give up everything and travel around?
- How did Jesus want this man to follow Him?