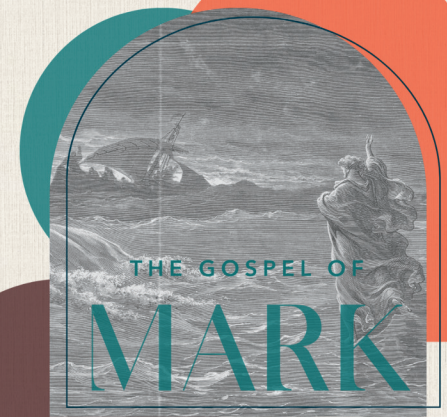


September 24, 2023

## FROM MADMAN TO MISSIONARY

Pastor Roger Poupart // Mark 5:1-20



### PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. 2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, 3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. 6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him; 7 and shouting with a loud voice, he said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!" 8 For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many." 10 And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. 12 The demons implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them." 13 Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. 14 Their herdsman ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the "legion"; and they became frightened. 16 Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine. 17 And they began to implore Him to leave their region. 18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. 19 And He did not let him, but He said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.



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## REFLECT/CONNECT

Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?

- When was the last time you felt truly free?

These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

## GROW IN THE WORD

**01.** Upon crossing the sea of Galilee, Jesus encountered a man possessed by many demons. The man had been living among the tombs, was uncontrollable, and was deeply troubled. The demons recognized Jesus' authority and entreated Jesus not to send them out of the country. Jesus assented to their plea and allowed the demons to enter into a herd of pigs who all drowned in the sea shortly after (v. 1-13).

- What strikes you most about the man's condition in these verses? Note the ways Mark portrays him in verses 3-5.

## GROW IN THE WORD

- How would you describe the demons' view of Jesus' identity? Consider their words, actions, attitude, and demeanor towards Jesus, particularly in verses 2, 6-12.

- Why do you think Jesus gave the demons permission to enter the pigs, which led to the whole herd dying? What do you learn about Jesus' system of values from this act?

**02. The townspeople heard what happened and came to see for themselves. They became frightened upon seeing the transformation of the man formerly possessed by demons, and entreated Jesus to leave their region. The free man entreated Jesus to join him, but Jesus instructed him to go to his home and to share his testimony (v. 14-20).**

- What stands out to you most about how the townspeople reacted to what they witnessed?



# GROW IN THE WORD

- How does their reaction shed light to the different ways people might respond to Jesus? See also John 9:16, Acts 19:23-27; Luke 7:16-17, Acts 3:10.

- Jesus instructed the man to share his testimony, and the man obeyed his instruction despite the way his transformation was received by the townspeople. How can you imitate this man who so eagerly obeyed Jesus?

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PRAYER GATHERING

Sunday, October 8 | 9:15 am | Room 300

We are launching our next missions prayer guide in October and kick-off this section with a time of corporate prayer for our partners and partner organizations in the Americas. We'd love to have you join us!

### CHURCH PICNIC

October 15 | 12:30 pm | Morgan's Wonderland

We're looking for to spending the afternoon together as a community and hope you can join us! You can purchase lunch from the food trucks or bring in your own and the whole family is invited! Learn more online or in the app.

# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

## CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

Use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group up into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each of the members get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share something you are celebrating (a high) or something that you are working through (a low) this week.
- Remind the group about the guidelines and values you want to pursue together. Pray for your group time.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide, or an alternate question to get to know one another. You can discuss as a big group or in smaller groups of 2-4 people.

## GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Read each section of Scripture you are focusing on prior to discussion. Select the questions that stand out most to you and your co-leader.
- Read the cross-references together and discuss the selected questions.

## ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Discuss the last question of the passage guide and determine where people are at related to their testimony (Do they know it? Have you heard it? Can they share it? Do they share it?)
- Get in smaller groups of 2-4 if you haven't already. Spend time sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.
- Consider spending time hearing one another's testimonies in future sessions either in a big group or split up into smaller groups.