

“Set FREE”
Mark 5:1-20
5/5/24
Message 12

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Set FREE”

- **Demons and Demonic activity**

- **1st Generally 2 types of responses from Christians**
 - 1st Those who downplay demonic activity
 - Try to explain it away
 - 2nd Satan is behind every bush...
 - They jump at every little thing - it is seen as demonic
- **2nd Our Culture has a huge fascination with the Demonic realm and it's getting worse**
 - There are so many TV shows, movies...
 - “Medium”
 - “Paranormal Activity”
 - “Exorcist”
 - “Poltergeist”
 - There are Documentaries and on and on...
 - Our culture seems to be obsessed with it
 - What they may not realize is Demons and Demonic activity is VERY REAL

- Satan is real
- Spiritual warfare is real
- They should be very cautious and careful
- This is an area that should NOT be played with

• **NOW WHAT ARE DEMONS?**

○ **Some Other Biblical passages about Demons**

- Matthew 9:32-33; 12:22; 17:18
- Mark 5:1-20; 7:26-30
- Luke 4:33-36; 22:3
- Acts 16:16-18

○ **1st The Bible calls them - EVIL or Unclean Spirits...**

- So we know they're spirits

○ **2nd Where do they come from...**

- Angels that rebelled against God
- Satan is also a demon –
 - he is the prince of the demons

○ **3rd Demons Have Power**

- They Have power
- Much greater power than HUMAN beings have

○ **4th They can Possess People**

- That they can inhabit people
 - Literally possess them and take them over

- **What it can look like**
- **1st Cannot Control Themselves**
 - A person who is under the control of a demon cannot control themselves.
 - The evil spirit is able to speak through their lips or can make them mute as it so desires.
- **2nd New Personality**
 - Demon-possession means that a new personality is introduced to that person
 - The victim becomes a different person.
 - The Gadarene demoniac
 - Acted and spoke as one who was controlled by another personality
- **3rd Different Voice**
 - Sometimes those who are demon-possessed speak with a different voice
 - Hiss and growl / strange noise
- **4th Supernatural Knowledge**

Acts 16:16–18 (NKJV)

16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, “These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.”

18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out that very hour.

- The spirit apparently gives a slave girl some ability to know things beyond her own learning.

▪ **5th New Abilities**

- A person who is demon-possessed acquires new abilities.
- For example,
 - Those possessed by demons can demonstrate superhuman strength.

▪ **6th Suicidal Tendencies**

- Demon possession can lead to suicidal tendencies.
- The Bible says of one person who was demon-possessed.

Mark 9:22 (NKJV)

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

• **PLEASE NOTE**

- Not all Suicides are demon posses
- This is NOT the unpardonable sin
- The annual U.S. suicide rate increased 30% between 2000 and 2020, from 10.4 to 13.5 suicides per 100,000 people. In 2018, 14.2 people per 100,000 died by suicide, the highest rate recorded in more than 30 years
- A very REAL problem in our culture
- Look for signs

- Changes in eating and sleeping habits.
 - Withdrawal from friends, family, activities.
 - Violent or rebellious behavior, running away.
 - Drug, alcohol abuse.
 - Changes in hygiene.
 - Persistent boredom, difficulty concentrating, decline in schoolwork.
 - Frequent stomachaches, headaches, fatigue.
 - Loss of interest in pleasurable activities.
 - Inability to accept praise.
 - Feeling "rotten inside."
 - Giving away favorite possessions.
 - Verbal hints, such as "I won't see you again."
- **7th The demons ultimate goal - Destruction**
 - Illustrations...
 - Charles Manson
 - Nazi Germany
 - Isis
 - Transgender Ideology in Schools
 - Columbine High School massacre

- Cassie René Bernall was a student killed in the Columbine High School massacre at age 17.
- It was reported that Bernall had been asked whether or not she believed in God before being shot during the massacre.

○ **5th Their POWER is LIMITED**

- The Bible teaches that they are limited...they are NOT like God
 - They DON'T have the power of God
- They are NOT omni-present:
 - They can't be in 2 places at once
- They are not all powerful and they don't know everything either
 - But they KNOW a lot

○ **6th They cannot POSSESS Christians**

1 John 4:4 (NKJV)

4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- KNOW JESUS KNOW PEACE / NO JESUS / NO PEACE

• **Now this morning we will look at 4 Amazing Truths in being SET FREE by Jesus**

- The Effect The Demons Had on the Man vs. 1-5
- The Demons Encounter With Jesus vs. 6-13
- The People Examine What Took Place vs. 14-17
- The Exhortation Jesus Gave To The Man vs. 18-20

The Effect The Demons Had on the Man vs. 1-5

- **First: He Had An Unclean Spirit vs. 1-3**

- **1st Then they Came to the other side v. 1**

Mark 5:1 (NKJV)

1 *Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gad-a-
renes.*

- **They just “Survived” the storm at sea**

- Jesus and His disciples have sailed from Capernaum
- Let's go to the other side / Where is your faith
- Now they Have arrived on the eastern shore of Galilee
- On their way towards the city of Gadara.

- **The Ancient city of Gadara / Show Pics**

- Was one of the ten Gentile cities of the larger region known as the
 - “Decapolis” (“Ten Cities”)
 - This is all taking place in the northern area of Israel.
 - Today, the ruins of Gadara lie within the border of the nation of Jordan.

- **2nd Immediately there met Him out of the tombs vs. 2-3a**

Mark 5:2–3 (NKJV)

2 **And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out
of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,**

3 **who had his dwelling among the tombs;** *and no one could bind him, not
even with chains,*

- **And when He had come out of the boat - IMMEDIATELY**

- Marks Favorite word – IMMEDIATELY
- SO Right Out of the Gate – He come out of the boat...
 - Spiritual WARFARE
 - Spiritual Warfare is VERY real
 - Encounter it all the time in the ministry
- **There met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit**
 - A demon-possessed man
 - We know from Luke 8:27
 - The man had been demon possessed for a LONG TIME
 - WORE NO CLOTHES and lived like a sub-human, or like a wild animal
 - The man lived among the DEAD
 - Contrary to Jewish law and human instinct (dwelling among the tombs).
 - This poor man really needed the touch of Jesus
- **Demon – Possession**
 - Is VERY real
 - Yes - even in our day
 - Yes - even in America
 - **Illustration**

- **Petaluma Bike Ride**

- When People who expose themselves to

- **The Occult**

- Not ALL - But be Very Careful

- Video games

- Music

- Horoscopes
- Mediums
- Psychics
- Palm Reading
- Spirit Guides
- Yoga
- Tarot Cards
- Crystals
- Enneagram
- Reincarnation

- **Drugs - Pharmakeia (witchcraft)**

Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)

8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

- Greek – pharmakos
- Means - means the preparing and giving of medicine, and in the NT, sorcery, enchantment
- YES - This means POT

- **Second: He Was Uncontrollable vs. 3b-5**

Mark 5:3–5 (NKJV)

*3 who had his dwelling among the tombs; **and no one could bind him, not even with chains,***
4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces;
neither could anyone tame him.
5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

- **1st PLEASE NOTE the WORLD COULD NOT HELP HIM**

- **All they could do is BIND him**

- But they could NOT offer any real help or solution to the man's problem
 - The World still has NO solutions
 - Just MORE Pharmakeia
 - And in some cases Institutions – Lock Them Up

- **But their efforts did not work**

- The man had supernatural strength
 - (chains pulled apart).
 - The man was tormented and self-destructive
 - (crying out and cutting himself with stones).
 - The man had uncontrollable behavior
 - (neither could anyone tame him)

- **2nd TWO THINGS: He had a spiritual condition and a physical condition**

- **1st His Spiritual Condition**

- Long Time:

- Luke 8:27 says, *who had demons for a long time*
- This hasn't been a recent development
- Not a new condition this poor man has suffered a long time
- Many Demons:
 - Mark 5:9 / Luke 8:30
 - "What is your name?"
 - And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him.
 - How many Demons did this man have?
 - Legion –
 - The basic military unit of the ancient Roman army.
 - A legion could consist of 6000 men
 - For this man, we don't know how many it was
 - But evidently it was quite a few
 - Enough to inhabit 2,000 pigs
 - All this goes to show that this is VERY REAL and NOTHING to be played with
- **2nd His Physical Condition**
 - **Satan's Goal: Destruction**

John 10:10 (NKJV)

10 *The thief (SATAN) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

- This is the ONLY goal of the enemy
- We must NEVER forget it
- **Because of Satan's power in the man's life**
 - He lost everything
 - He lost his home
 - The fellowship of his family and friends
 - He lost his decency as he ran around naked in the tombs
 - He lost his self-control and lived like a wild animal
 - Screaming, cutting himself
 - Frightening the people
 - He lost his peace & purpose for living
 - Living - in the tombs - hanging out in a CEMETERY
 - Demons are comfortable around that which is DEAD
 - **In Luke Account**
 - **Notice it says he was DRIVEN into the wilderness v. 29**

Luke 8:29 (NKJV)

29 *For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and*

shackles; and he broke the bonds and **was driven by the demon into the wilderness.**

- Now I find this interesting
 - We're told that Jesus is the good shepherd
 - Who leads the sheep to
 - Still waters
 - Green pastures
 - Who is there protecting us when we have to go thru the Valley of Shadow of Death
 - In Jesus' day - you would never see shepherds driving sheep...they would always lead them
 - In fact, if you ever saw sheep being driven...
 - You Knew it wasn't by the shepherds but the BUTCHERS to the SLAUGHTER HOUSE
 - I find that interesting in light of fact that here we see the demons led this man out into the wilderness...to destroy him
- **3rd This is what the Devil seeks to do**
 - Leave men naked / bound / tormented and on the run
 - And we must NEVER underestimate the destructive power of Satan

- That is Why we MUST Speak the TRUTH in LOVE
 - In hope that the POWER of God might rescue people

The Demons Encounter With Jesus vs. 6-13

• First: The Demon Have Knowledge Of Who Jesus Is vs. 6-7

○ 1st When He Saw Jesus v. 6

Mark 5:6 (NKJV)

6 When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him.

▪ He Ran –

- Greek: Trecho –
- Means: to run; of persons in haste

▪ Worshipped –

- Greek: Proskuneo –
- Means: To kiss the hand to (towards) one, in token of reverence; to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound reverence; to do homage (to one) or make obeisance, whether in order to express respect or to make supplication (like here).

▪ The man had come out in a hostile manner

- It could be that the man initially came out to fight
 - Since that was what he apparently did all the time.
- But when he saw Jesus
 - Compelled to Worship

- This shows us Jesus is GOD – Authority
- **2nd What Have I To Do With You v. 7a**

Mark 5:7 (NKJV)

7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”

▪ **What have I to do with You...**

- This was the unclean spirit speaking, not the possessed man.
- The demon did not want to leave his host.

▪ **Jesus SON of the MOST HIGH God**

- The demon certainly knows who Jesus is!

▪ **I implore You by God that You do not torment me:**

- I Implore –
 - Greek: horkizo
 - Means: To force to take an oath; “swear to me that ...”
- Torment –
 - Greek: Basanizo –
 - Means: To test (metals) by the touchstone, which is a black stone used to test the purity of gold or silver.
- The demon is begging not to be tormented.
 - Luke records

Luke 8:31 (NKJV)

31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

- Deep – the “Abyss”
- Revelation 9 records a horde of demonic locust creatures being released from the “bottomless pit” (the “abyss”). We believe this is a place of imprisonment and torment for demonic beings.
- HELL

• Second: The Demons Are Aware Of their Final Destination vs. 8-10

- **1st What is your name? vs. 8-9**

Mark 5:8–9 (NKJV)

8 For He said to him, *“Come out of the man, unclean spirit!”*

9 Then He asked him, *“What is your name?”* And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.”

▪ **Again – Legion**

- A Roman legion usually consisted of 6,000 men.
 - This does not mean that the man was inhabited with 6,000 demons, but that he had many.

▪ **Jesus Commands**

- Come OUT of the man
- The ONLY hope for the man – was / is JESUS

- **2nd Also he begged Him earnestly v. 10**

Mark 5:10 (NKJV)

10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

- Again Luke 8:31

- Tells us that the demons also begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss!

• **Third: The Authority And Power Of Jesus is Demonstrated vs. 11-13**

- **1st Send us to the swine, that we may enter them: vs. 11-12**

Mark 5:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains.

12 So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.”

- **Pigs were unclean animals to the Jews**

- Many Believe the pig farmers to be Jewish

- **Demons BEGGED**

- Show Jesus Authority
- Showing they would rather be in pigs than hell

- **2nd And at once Jesus gave them permission v. 13**

Mark 5:13 (NKJV)

13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

- **Can be in animals or people**

- Demons seek to get people to act like pigs

- **The Pigs kill themselves**

- So 2000 pigs go over this hill and commit “soo wee cide”

- We have the first mention of - Deviled Ham

- It seems there are people who have a concern that Jesus would do this?
 - The poor pigs...
 - Forgetting about the man!
 - Listen the correct perspective
 - People – SOULS are MORE valuable than animals
- **Application**
 - In America we value animals more than people
 - You have all seen the commercials – save the animals
 - BUT let's kill our babies in the womb

The People Examine What Took Place vs. 14-17

• **First: Concern Over The Pigs vs. 14-16**

- **1st So Those Who feed v. 14**

Mark 5:14 (NKJV)

14 *So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened.*

- **PETA alive and well back then**

- P.E.T.A (Pigs Entering Treacherous Areas)

- **2nd And they were afraid vs. 15-16**

Mark 5:15–16 (NKJV)

15 *Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.*

16 *And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine.*

- **They were more afraid of a free man than a possessed man.**
 - When they saw the man in his right mind, sitting at the feet of Jesus, they were afraid.
- **They were more afraid of the loss of the pigs –**
 - Then they were of a soul being saved
- **Application**
 - Let this sink in – this is America today
 - More concerned about profits, pleasure, sin then about a persons soul

• **Second: The Concern Over the Presence Of Jesus v. 17**

- **1st Then they began to plead with Him v. 17**

Mark 5:17 (NKJV)

17 *Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.*

- Jesus LEAVE
- Application
 - When people are more afraid of what Jesus will do in their lives than what Satan does in the moment, they often push Jesus away.

The Exhortation Jesus Gave To The Man vs. 18-20

- **First: The Reason Jesus Did Not Let Him Come vs. 18-19**

- **1st He who had been demon-possessed begged Him v. 18**

Mark 5:18 (NKJV)

18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.

- **Let me go with You**

- The man who had been set free by Jesus just wanted to be with Jesus.
- This man didn't want only what Jesus could do for him.
- The true change in his heart was shown by his desire to be with Jesus.

- **Application**

- When we have been set free from SIN & DEATH
- We just want to be with Jesus

- **2nd Jesus did not permit him v. 19a**

Mark 5:19 (NKJV)

19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, *“Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”*

- **Jesus said – I have a MISSION for you**

- He knew that the man had a more important ministry with his own family and community.

- **Application**

- When we have been set free from SIN & DEATH

- We want to tell others how GREAT God is

- **Second: The Results v. 20**

- **1st He Departed and began to proclaim v. 20**

Mark 5:20 (NKJV)

20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

- And ALL MARVELED

- What a witness he was to the healing POWER that comes ONLY from Christ

Closing

- **Jesus Set us FREE / LIVE in HIS FREEDOM today**

John 8:36 (NKJV)

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Romans 6:22 (NKJV)

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

- You are free from
 - SIN
 - GUILT
 - SHAME
 - COMMENDATION
- Let Celebrate our FREEDOM in Receiving communion

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*