



February 14, 2010
Sermon Based Studies

Member Study Guide

2 Know Him and Make Him Known #2
Mark 5:1-20 (ESV)

Text: **Mark 5:1-20 (ESV)**

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and was drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Getting to know me

1. Pastor Dean ended his message with some "penetrating questions." Which ones were most "penetrating" to you?

Into the Bible

1. Read the parallel passages in Matt. 8: 28-34 and Luke 8:26-40. What are the differences that you see? If you have a commentary or a study Bible, check what they say about the differences in these passages. What does this tell you about the gospel writers' process?
2. Describe the destructiveness of the power of sin, as evidenced by the man's demon possession. How do you see these effects of sin in yourself or others?
3. What are the "treasures" of the herdsmen and the people of the area as seen in their response to this miracle? Where do you see a battle in your life with this world's things and the spiritual values of God's kingdom?
4. So what about the pigs; aren't they "unclean" according to Jewish law? And why does Jesus grant the demons request?
5. In 19, who did Jesus say had worked in this man's life? What does this say about Jesus' view of himself?
6. In other cases where Jesus has healed or restored someone, he tells them not to tell anyone about it. Why does he tell this man to go and tell others?

Application Questions

1. You likely didn't experience the depth of transformation as the Gerasens demoniac, but what were some of the changes that you saw when you became a Christian?
2. Were there or are there people in your life who don't support your decision to follow Christ?
3. Who are the people in your life that need to hear "how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you." What help do you need to do this?
4. Telling our families and closest friends about our commitment to follow Christ and encouraging them to do so can be a more difficult task than talking to strangers. What roadblocks do you face in encouraging these people to become Christ followers?