

Mark 5:1-13 – Spiritual Liberation

GreekLexicon, TSK, INT, Handfuls, Robertson, Family, PNT, Geneva, Poole, JFB, Henry, Gill, Gray, Vincent, Easton,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Mark gives the longest version of this story because it had more significance **重要性** to the Gentile world – the recipient of his Gospel. It is an account of the spiritual liberation of a demon possessed man. Hear it today.

Our headings are:

Pain in Man

Power in Christ

Our goals are: That you will see the transforming **翻转** power of Christ to those who are trapped in sin, and that you will then remember to give Christ the glory from your lips and through your life for what he has done for you.

Pain in Man

1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

1. Jesus had just calmed the troubled waves of the Sea of Galilee and crossed over to the East side into a mountainous country. The place was named Gadara...which means “reward at the end.” There were many cemeteries **墓地** there – caves in the mountain sides. Archeologists have confirmed this. **Jesus went there with his disciples as part of their training of preaching the Gospel**, but this time he used the semi-Jews for the training ground. He was gradually preparing them to go into the rest of the world. A point of interest is this: Without his disciples knowing it, **Jesus make that treacherous journey for 1 man**...and an outsider at that...and a dreg of society at that... But that is the value he puts on a soul.

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

2. Immediately, upon reaching the other side, probably very early in the morning, he met the man he went there to free. Mark talked about Jesus meeting one man, but Matthew said two. Mark only chose to talk about one, as that was his purpose.

3. This man had an unclean spirit in him and was living among the tombs in the cemetery.

Literally, the Bible says: The **man** was in the evil spirit...it was so dominating **掌控** him.

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

4. This man was virtually in hell – much worse than the storm of the night before. One could not get any closer to hell. He lived among the dead. He was out of his mind...and under the control of evil spirits.

4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains 脚镣和铁炼.

And the **chains had been pulled apart by him**, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.

5. Even the strong shackles (chains put on his feet) could not control him. He was a wild animal... waiting to kill or be killed. He was a terrorist. Men had no doubt tried in all sorts of ways to tame him, but they could not: exorcism 驱鬼, reasoning, cajoling 哄骗, and tying. People were afraid of him.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and **cutting himself** with stones.

6. Consider the details of his behavior.

a. He would hide in the mountains. Why was he living in the mountains away from the people and near the steep cliffs? He was a loner. That is what the demons wanted him to be. He had to ignore the people who could help him.

b. He would cut himself. Why was he cutting himself...was it because he loved cutting himself? No. He cut himself because he couldn't help himself. While he was a sadist 虐待狂 at times, he was also a masochist 自虐狂. He wanted to die to escape the pain.

c. He was naked 裸露! Why was he naked...according to Luke 8? He was naked because he couldn't help himself...the demons controlled him. The Devil made sure that people would avoid him so he couldn't get any help from them.

d. He continued this day and night....as the evil spirits tormented his soul. This poor soul was a step away from hell's agony and fire...His life was confusing! There was no remedy...at least that's what it seemed like.

7. Lessons:

a. Just as the Lord had worked hard the day before and had to wake up to new challenges, so you are called to never get tired in well-doing for the kingdom. Don't get frustrated with your children. Be patient with your husband. Don't give up teaching your relative about Jesus. Remember, every soul is valuable. All were made in the image of God.

b. Demons: Many people don't know much about evil spirits, but demons are real and they exist today. There are not as many overwhelming examples of demon possessions in North America today partly because there are more Christians and partly because the demons were limited in their activity when Jesus died. They were chained. Christians cannot be possessed by evil spirits because evil spirits cannot enter where the Holy Spirit is. Evil spirits are more present in places like Haiti, Brazil, India, and many African countries where people worship Satan. But there are people in North America who speak to demons. God may permit evil spirits to enter into some people who are not

Christians. (Only through God's grace are the wicked not more destructive.) And those people are used to steal, kill, and to destroy – even under religious cover. Bad religion is his trump card.

c. “Strong shackles” (chains) are a significant picture for Christians throughout the Bible. “Shackles” or “chains” pictures the law that traps you...but which is unable to control you and your sins. You are described as “slaves” to sin. This is why you need the Savior. Look at some examples.

Romans 6:19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when **you were slaves of sin**, you were free in regard to righteousness.

Hebrews 2:15 and release those who through fear of death were all their **lifetime subject to bondage**.

Galatians 5:1 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 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has **made me free from the law of sin** and death.

d. The pains people suffer can be more than what is obvious. Don't assume because someone seems well-adjusted that he is okay. His soul could be tormented and he needs help. Sometimes you have to pry 窥探 this information out. Sometimes you might have to sit down for a meal. If you are afraid you are not able to handle someone like that, take someone with you.

e. Don't ignore people because they don't look like you. They may be filthy in body or in life...but if that keeps you away from them, how would that honor Christ? How would that save them?

Power in Christ

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

1. When the man saw Jesus he ran to him and bowed down. The word “worship” here describes the position he had before Jesus...not the action of singing, praying, and listening to preaching. To fall on your knees and touch the ground with the forehead was an expression of reverence. (Like kissing a ring.) The man, under demonic control, simply bowed down in submission to Christ. **He knew the one who had all power**. Only Christians can worship...or it could have been fake worship by the demon.

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.**"

2. Then the demon (evil spirit) screamed: What did I do to you that you have come to torment me...before my time? (Luke) "Torment" here means to test a metal by fire. So there is a clue of hell's fire, from where demons come...**Hell was the demon's end. And he knew it!**

Further, "darkness" always blames "light" because "light" always reveals corruption. The demon was the one tormenting the man...but he switched the attack on Jesus. **The Devil is the father of liars**...and will always be. Yet, he testified to truth: that Jesus was he "Son" of the Most High God. He knew who the Sovereign **掌权** was. And the evil spirit begged Christ not to torture him.

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe — and tremble!

The problem is, evil spirits have no access to prayer. **Only Christians do.** Jesus will not answer their prayers.

8 For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

3. Knowing all his lies, Jesus commanded the evil spirit to leave. Jesus was not put-off by the man's scabs, scars, or smell. He looked beyond them. He looked to the man's heart and saw his need for help and ordered the impure spirit to leave! That is the power of Christ. **That is freedom that comes to man.**

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

4. And showing his absolute sovereignty over the Devil, Jesus demanded the name of the evil spirit. Of course Jesus knew his name, but demanded that the demon speak, **to show his authority over the demon. The demon responded that he was not one but many – a legion.** The word "legion" could be taken figuratively to mean "many." Or it could be taken literally and could mean 4000-6000. A full historical legion was 6826 soldiers. You see how the demons, in demonic fashion, lied, originally pretending to be one demon. **And isn't it interesting that most people who talk to demons always give a good report** of how things are on the other side? Demons are nothing but pretenders and liars.

10 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. 11 Now a large herd of swine **猪** was feeding there near the mountains. 12 So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them."

5. Bowing in submission to Jesus' sovereignty, the demons begged for permission to go into swine...the lowest of all ceremonially clean animals. Swine were wild pigs. The demons did not want to leave the country and to go back to hell. Who would?

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.

6. Jesus gave them permission to go into the pigs. But why let them go into the pigs?

a. Jesus used this as an opportunity to show the hearts of the people of the land.

They had wandered away from God. The people needed to learn the principles of uncleanness...and the consequences of what happens when evil spirits run your life. Many of the people of Gadara were apostate Jews.

b. By sending the evil spirits into pigs Jesus was also showing that he had all powers...and even evil spirits bowed to him.

7. Lessons:

a. God controls all demons...even the demons who controlled and tormented this man. Our Lord is a Sovereign Lord. All the world will have to bow down to him one day as these demons did. Rejoice that it will be on friendly terms with you because you know him.

b. Let this power of Jesus encourage you to be bold坚定, knowing your God will win. Don't be afraid of how people may see you. They need the Gospel. Speak! Greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world.

c. Don't be put off by the filth污秽 of people. They need God's healing through the Gospel. They may have a foul mouth. They may be poor or wear dirty clothes. (Ever been to an orphanage and kids want to hold you? They need adoption!) All men need liberation解放.

d. Some men (like the people of Gadara) may know God in their heads...but they did not believe him in their hearts. Look at their lives! Did their lives match what they said? They needed liberation.

e. If the demons know that they will be tormented in the end and are afraid, you had better take note of that also as to how you live.

Conclusion

It was the saddest picture to see this hopeless, howling man in the middle of tombs, naked, uncontrolled, bleeding, filled with demons and waiting for death and hell. It looked like he was

1 step away from death... physical and eternal death. So the Lord comes, on a long journey, and everything changes. Jesus liberated the man from this physical and spiritual depraved state. Jesus broke the chains on his soul.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. You too were close to hell. But you have truly been made free. Maybe you did not realize it at the time when you were bound-tied-up. You were at the edge of a cliff...and did know the danger in which you were. This is what the devil does...he lies and traps you... But Jesus came and lived and died for you. He proclaimed freedom to the captives. He liberated you. There is not wickedness that Christ couldn't cure.

2. After Christ met you, you were never the same. Yes...he is the reason you are able to see and you are in your right mind. He is the reason you are able to have fellowship with him... **and you can go...like this man did afterward...and tell his family and friends...the wonderful things the Lord has done for you.**

3. And while evil spirits cannot invade your body and possess you, they can certainly attack you. You have to know God's Word so you can repel击退 the attacks of the evil spirits. Fight like the liberated one.

Finally, if you are still in your sins...you are 1 step away from hell. You are killing yourself...you cause pain and suffering to others too. You are not leading your family like you should. You are leading them down the wrong path...and over the cliff. Only Jesus Christ will save you and put you in your right mind... And he has traveled over to your country today. Are you listening to his voice? Are you obeying?