



DIVE DEEPER

READ Mark 5:1-8 (NIV)

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

ONE STORM TO THE NEXT:

Jesus had just calmed a violent storm, and now as he steps onto the shoreline he is approached by a man with an equally violent storm within him. In both cases we are posed with the question: Will Jesus' power prevail over the pandemonium?

¿ The Jews did not come to this region often because of its spiritual uncleanness. There are FOUR unclean things listed in the verses that we've read so far. Can you list them all?

› (V. 1-5) In much the same way that the storm was meant to deter Jesus from crossing the sea, the demoniac had a reputation for deterring anyone from passing that way.

¿ In what ways was this man being tortured?

› (V. 6) The Greek verb for "fell on his knees," *proskynein*, denotes prostrating oneself before a person to whom reverence or worship is due, even kissing his feet or the hem of his garment.

¿ Do you think it was the man or the demons who did this action? What would it say either way?

¿ What can we learn from the following phrases spoken by the demons?

∞ τί ἐμοὶ καὶ σοὶ [ti emoi kai soi]—"What did I ever do to you?"

∞ "Son of the Most High God"

∞ "In God's name, don't torture me"

HELLO, MY NAME IS:

READ Mark 5:9,10 (NIV)

9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¿ Why do you think Jesus asked, "What is your name?"

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. I tend to avoid conflict, rather than try to resolve it.

2. I don't mind driving through the "bad" parts of town.

3. I've seen a person who was demon possessed.

4. I don't believe in haunted houses.

5. I believe that most of the people today who think they are demon possessed are simply mentally disturbed.



DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

¿ Who responded, the man or the demons?

¿ Why did the demons hide behind their numbers, instead of telling their names? Didn't Jesus know them already?

WITH YOUR PERMISSION:

READ Mark 5:11-13 (NIV)

11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¿ What do these verses reveal about the power of Jesus?

¿ Earlier, the demons had begged to stay in the area. Why do you think they didn't want to leave the area? Why do you think they wanted to go to the pigs?

AND THE WINNER IS...

READ Mark 5:14-20 (NIV)

14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

¿ Why do you think the people were afraid?

¿ The people beg Jesus to leave and he agrees. The former demoniac begs to leave with Jesus and he disagrees. Why do you think this is?

NOTES

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MY PRAYER

1. What areas of my life am I allowing the enemy to take possession of?
2. How can I be a greater witness in the town that Jesus has placed me in?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?