

Nov 4th 2007: Mark Series: Awesome Power Over Evil: Mark 5:1-20

Last week.....saw Jesus and His.....crossing the sea.....only to exp a violent
Yet Jesus controlled that fierce and mighty storm.....just two words

Today.....find Jesus and.....crossing.....again.....BUT this time the storm on land

It's as frightening.....terrifying.....destructive.....IN an entirely diff way

For this is evil incarnate in a man.....humanity caught up in a supernatural battlefield

A showdown between the Son of God.....and the powers of Satan

One against over 2,000.....Yet there is no doubt.....that the ONE.....is victorious

- **When Jesus landed.....He entered enemy territory...as far as evil**

A region inhabited by Gentiles...Who proclaimed their non-Jewishness in part...by the pigs

But it was also a placeunder siege

Evil had invaded that portion of God's earth.....in the form of a man who was possessed

He lived in the caves....that doubled as tombs.....**But not quitely**

*V3 "This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him
any more, not even with a chain."*

There would have been a reason....for wanting to bind him.....**Nuisance...trouble...threat**

But nowno one could bind him any more

- **And it wasn't for lack of trying**

*V4 "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."*

- **So what was life like....**with a mad man on the loose ?

*V5 "Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would
cry out and cut himself with the stones."*

Now at first.....that may not sound too bad.....IF that was it....Surely....bearable

But such.....tip of the iceberg

We can imagine this man breaking into....to get food.....OR when the madness took over

We can imagine them fearing....for the safety of their children....the elderly.....themselves

We can imagine them listening to his cries at night.....and wondering whether ...coming !!!

Here we have a community....under siege to powers of evil.....**And the Son...come to rescue**

- **Immediately He lands**.....the powers of evil know Who He is
They know they have been invaded by righteousness.....**They know** He is a threat
When the man sees Jesus from a distancehe runs towards Him
This is their usual mode of operation.....

- **And we can imagine those disciples.....wanting to run**
But not Jesus.....He has no fear of Satan....No fear of evil.....HE is the Son of God

*Now its at this point.....that we need to read the scripture very carefully...
.....in order to see.....exactly what happened next*

v6 *“When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees (προσεκυνησεν) in front of Him. He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God (interesting) that you won’t torture me!”*

What an amazing reaction....It is obviously the evil that is speaking....for Jesus is recognized
His is not only named.....But Jesus is **feared**.....**Is seen** as having the power to torture

- **So what brought on such a transformation ??????????**
From the monster charging....To this sniveling creature....groveling at his feet....terror

V8 *“For Jesus had said to him, ‘Come out of this man, you evil spirit!’”*

Jesus speaks....and not only the powers of nature.....But the powers of evil....must obey
And not only obey.....but completely reveal themselves

- **Up to this point.....the evil had pretended to be singular**
But Jesus now demands a name.....and the response in v9 is....
“My name is Legion(6,000 men),” he replied, “for we are many”.

And though they are many.....they are powerless.....they are helpless before the Lord
(This helps me to better understand a time....Jesus before Pilate in John 19:10-11
“Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”
“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.”)

- **Indeed so helpless are they.....that v10 says**
“And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area”

What they were begging Jesus for.....was to be let loose again.....on that community
 To find other poor souls to inhabit.....**To** continue their terrifying work thru others

- **But Jesus had come to rescue**.....not just to save this one man
And when they then begged.....pigs.....**Jesus** knew that would be the end of the line
That once in the pigs....their control was gone.....Disaster would follow
 And the community would witness.....physical way....the passing **from**...of their problem

**Now what cost would you think.....a community would be willing to pay....
 for such a freedom.....(Fire of London 1666.....)**

The people came and could see that the evil powers were gone.....**This** Jesus was triumphant
They knew because.....**The** man was sitting there....dressed.....in his right mind

They knew because 2,000 pigs.....

And yet they begged Jesus to leave.....because the costOf submission....**of pigs**
 Was too much

- **Things have not changed today**.....Evil is very much in our society....
Sometimes...still in the open.....**Often** its there in a more subtle way
 It uses human anger.....prejudice....alcohol.....drugs...gambling....sexual perversion....crime
 to control and destroy

It hangs around our homes...communities...children...elderly....ourselves
Jesus is still the answer.....**Yet** people still tell Him to go away....**Cost** of pigs..too high

And yet the man who was healed.....When he saw that Jesus was leaving....He begged to go
And to Him Jesus said no.....For He sent him back.....To be their second chance

They were willing to turn their backs on Jesus.....

He was not willing to leave...w/out hope

This is such an important point in this whole story

..v19 “Jesus said, ‘Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.’”

- **Go to** those who refused to have anything to do with you
- **Go home** to those who treated you like garbage
- **Go home** to those who you hurt dreadfully.....and who hurt you in return
- **Go back to** those who chained you.....
and tell them how much the Lord...**And esp...**has had mercy

This point is so important.....because it is what the Lord Jesus says to me.....and to you
To go and tell.....not just our family.....but **all** those.....how much the Lord....

At the beginning.....began to read this book

And it spoke to my heart.....about what I need to do

And as I looked at the end of this story.....I realized.....It is what you need to do too

So I bought 20 copies.....

Something here....that can transform us as a church

