

**Week of October 17 through October 23, 2011**

**Theme: Wholeness Restored**

**Mark 5:1-20**

**Outline Passages:**

**Jesus Conquers Evil** (Mark 5:1-3, 6-13a)

**Jesus Makes Us Whole** (Mark 5:15-17)

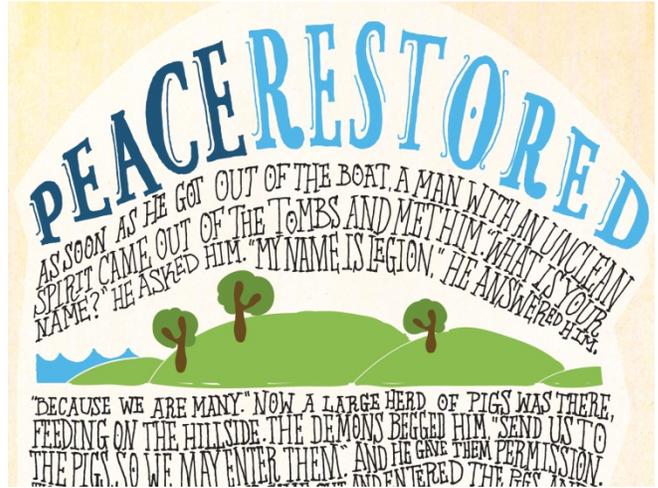
**Jesus Gives Us Responsibility** (Mark 5:18-20)

**What This Lesson Is About?**

Jesus demonstrates His power over evil by casting out demons and restoring a person to wholeness.

**How This Lesson Can Impact Your Life?**

We also need to recognize the power of evil and place our confidence in Jesus' greater power that can restore wholeness to our lives.



**1. Jesus Conquers Evil - Mark 5:1-3,6-13a**

- a. Jesus led His disciples across the Sea of Galilee to a place on its eastern shore in “the region of the Gerasenes.”
- b. Gergesa was one of the Cities of the Decapolis (Ten Towns), and were populated primarily by Gentiles.
- c. “As soon as” they landed, a man living there ran out of the tombs to meet them.
  - i. This location was characterized by its caves and tombs.
  - ii. Apparently, this man had been watching their boat from a distance, and as soon as Jesus got out of the boat, he ran to Jesus and knelt down before Him.
- d. Mark said that the man had an unclean spirit.
  - i. In the New Testament, being unclean carried the notion of being morally filthy and unholy in God’s holy presence. Such a person was considered wicked, and controlled by evil, namely Satan.
  - ii. People in the region had tried to restrain him, but to no avail.
  - iii. Finally, he lived among the caves and tombs, being tormented by physical and spiritual agony.
- e. He knelt down before Jesus, affirming the Jesus’ authority as well as His deity.
  - i. The demon knew Jesus was God’s Son.
  - ii. In Jesus’ presence, the demon was troubled over what Jesus would do to him.
  - iii. Note the Turn About: Even though the demon had been tormenting this pitiful person kneeling before Jesus, he begged Jesus not to torment him.
  - iv. What torment was he talking about? \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Jesus asked, “What is your name?” Why?
  - i. We are really not sure!
  - ii. One explanation is that we gain power over something if we can name it. An alcoholic

makes no improvement until the issue is named; Medical science cannot help anyone until the ailment is diagnosed, literally named.

- g. The answer “We are Legion.”
  - i. A Roman Legion consisted of up to 6,000 soldiers.
  - ii. This demonic presence was an evil force of tremendous power.
- h. Jesus told the demons to leave the man, but they begged Jesus to let them enter a large herd of pigs. After Jesus gave them permission, they hijacked the pigs and plunged down the hill into the sea and drowned.
  - i. Jesus didn’t register fear at all in the presence of so many evil spirits.
  - ii. Following Jesus’ example, we too must acknowledge the reality of Satan’s control, but not to become obsessed with it.
  - iii. As Christians, we can live in complete confidence that Jesus has authority over evil in all of its shapes and sizes.

**You might not have encountered demon possession, but evil is still all around us. In the space below, list 3 evils that affect you and your family. Then, offer them to Jesus to handle because He has authority over all evil.**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Jesus Makes Us Whole - Mark 5:14-17

- a. After hearing the story of the stampede of the pigs, everyone came to see for themselves what had taken place. They encountered Jesus and the man who had been liberated from the tyranny of Satan.
- b. With the demons gone, the man looked and behaved entirely different.
  - i. Instead of being wild with rage and out of control, \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. Instead of being naked, \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. Instead of acting like a person who had lost his mind, \_\_\_\_\_
- c. People can change too when they encounter Jesus.
  - i. Some of the changes take place immediately;
    - Anger is exchanged \_\_\_\_\_;
    - Fear is suddenly replaced \_\_\_\_\_;
    - Anxiety gives way \_\_\_\_\_;
    - Bad habits are replaced \_\_\_\_\_ that reflect a transformed heart.
  - ii. Other changes may take a while.
    - Some of the changes may take weeks or two, even a month or more;
    - Sometimes it takes years and maybe even a lifetime.

- Regardless how long, sooner or later, the person transformed by Jesus will register on the \_\_\_\_\_ the change that He's made on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. The Surprising Result: You would have expected the people to be over-joyed with Jesus. Unfortunately, just the opposite happened.
- i. The people were afraid.
  - ii. Maybe angry at the loss of 2,000 pigs.
  - iii. They begged Jesus to leave.
- e. What can we learn?
- i. \_\_\_\_\_
    - Have we given ourselves totally to Jesus?
    - Would we be afraid of what Jesus might do in our life?
    - The Bible assures us that the changes He might makes in our lives will not be to our detriment, rather, they will enrich us beyond our expectations.
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - They may feel threatened by Him.
    - They may refuse to believe or accept His purpose for their lives.

**Have you allowed God to transform you the way He did the demon-possessed man? Circle the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) that are increasingly more evident in your life now that you are a Christian:**

<b>Love</b>	<b>Joy</b>	<b>Peace</b>	<b>Patience</b>	<b>Kindness</b>
<b>Goodness</b>	<b>Faith</b>	<b>Gentleness</b>	<b>Self-control</b>	

### 3. Jesus Gives Us Responsibility - Mark 5:18-20

- a. Then man asked Jesus, "Take me along with you." Why would he want that?
  - i. I think the man wanted to live in complete service to Jesus, just as a way of saying thank you.
  - ii. Besides, why stay living here in the midst of this unbelieving people? They had just asked Jesus to leave!
- b. Jesus had a much better plan.
  - i. If Jesus took the man along, how would these unbelieving people ever come to believe?
  - ii. No go back home and share with your family and friends what Jesus had done in your life.
  - iii. That message could make an eternal difference in their lives.
- c. Why does Jesus leave His believers in this unbelieving world?
  - i. If Jesus took all the believers to heaven right now, how would our unbelieving world ever come to believe?
  - ii. Like the man in the story, we know what it's like to be liberated from slavery to sin so we can serve Jesus.
  - iii. Like the man in the story, we too are asked to go to our family and friends and share with

them what Jesus has done in our lives.

- d. Please remember, all of our stories and testimonies are unique.
  - i. Some of our stories about how Jesus changed our lives are absolutely sensational.
  - ii. Others of us have only ordinary testimonies, and that's okay!
  - iii. All of us who know Him personally have testimonies of how He changed our lives.
  - iv. The Lord can use all of our testimonies for His glory, but we must hear His call to tell our stories about His mercy on us.
- e. The Bible says that "the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

**All believers have responsibility for sharing the good news of salvation. Consider what steps you might take to tell the world of Jesus' transforming power in your life?**

- I could live out my faith so that others experience God's love through me?
- I could invite a friend to Church with me next Sunday?
- I could contribute to World missions
- I could host a "Matthew Party"
- I could share with friends/family the difference Jesus has made in my life

**Biblical Truths in Focus from This Lesson Study:**

1. When we rest in the assurance that Jesus has the last word over evil, our confidence in His authority encourages us as we engage in spiritual warfare.
2. We can be certain that Jesus is able to make serious changes in the lives of people who have received Him.
3. Joy comes from worshiping the Lord, but it also comes from sharing our testimonies about Him with others who need to know about Him.
4. Knowing that Jesus has the power to restore people to wholeness, we do well to stay focused on carrying out the responsibilities He has give us with complete devotion.