

Follow the King

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Sermon Questions

Date: *October 16, 2022* | Scripture: *Mark 5:1-20*

1. Read the passages from the sermon together. If you've heard this passage before, what stood out to you this time? Did you see any new details you missed before?
2. How often do you think about the spiritual world? How foreign is the notion of evil spiritual beings to you?
3. The demons which possess this man strip him of his humanity. One might expect a person wholly possessed by evil to be a mass murderer or a corrupt dictator, but this man is reduced to self-destructive, animalistic chaos. In short, demon possession dehumanizes him. The demons seek to make him less than an image-bearer of God. In what ways have you seen the dehumanizing effects of evil? How have you seen evil strip people of their dignity?
4. Jesus restores this man's dignity. In what ways does Jesus restore his dignity? How have you seen or experienced Jesus restore human dignity in your own time?
5. The locals are more concerned with protecting their bottom lines than with knowing the one whom demons beg for mercy. Where might we run the risk of doing that? How do we prioritize our wealth over showing mercy and restoring human dignity?
6. The man begs Jesus to let him stay with him, but Jesus tells him to remain and share the gospel. What do you make of that? How does that relate to our relationship with Christ?

Inward Grace in Action (see back also)

Almost every week we've been confronted with Jesus as a polarizing figure. Here, too, we see his magnetic effect. For almost everyone in this story, that magnetic effect is repulsive. The demons beg Jesus to leave them alone, to "not torment" them. The people beg Jesus to leave them alone, lest they lose more money or Jesus causes more of a disruption for the Romans. For the man who was saved from demonic oppression, the magnetic effect is attractive. He begs Jesus to let him go with him.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Genesis 1:26-30
- Psalm 8
- Isaiah 27:1-6
- Luke 10:10-12, 17-20
- James 4:1-10
- Revelation 12:7-12

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for all those in our church who are struggling with mental illness, that God might speak comfort and bring freedom to them.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

However, before the man is rescued from the demons, we see an all-too-relatable conflict of interests within him. On the one hand, the man (or the demons—following the dialog, it is impossible to distinguish between the two) pleads with Jesus to be left alone. On the other hand, the man throws himself at Jesus' feet in desperate need of healing.

Many of us know what it feels to live in that conflicted, desperate posture. We want to run to Jesus for help and simultaneously recoil from Him because of His power and beauty. We often pray for God to free us from the sins we love the most and for God to remove the vices which give us the most comfort, pleasure, security, or power. We love the thing which is killing us. We desperately want to be free and are terrified of freedom. When God removes those sins from us, we often feel a strange mixture of gratitude for our newfound freedom and grief for the loss of our old idols.

- Where do you feel this conflict? Do you struggle with addiction, or entrenched sins, or bad habits?
- How are you coming to the feet of Jesus for freedom? What are the concrete ways you are seeking help—whether that be through prayer, counseling, conversations with friends and leaders, reading, etc?
- Where have you seen Christ free you? What victories has he won?

Action: Being able to verbalize these parts of your life is itself an immense victory. Take some time this week to either journal or talk with a trusted friend about those conflicted places in your heart. Celebrate the work Christ has done in you and pray he might continue that work.

Additionally, If you are struggling with addiction, reach out to care@capitalpres.org for help.