

SERIES	SEEN
BIBLE	Mark 5:2-20
TITLE/TOPIC	Jesus Sees What Binds and Overtakes Me
OVERVIEW	Sometimes, things are not as they seem. We assume something about people we come across in our lives, thinking that they might be the way they are because of mental illness, their personality, or just something is wrong with them. But what if there is something deeper? What if they are the way they are because it is rooted in a spiritual issue? No matter what you or someone you love might be struggling with or bound by you can be sure that Jesus sees what is at the root and can set you free.
SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN	<p>INTRO: In the story we are looking at today, Jesus encounters a man whom Mark identifies as a <i>"man with an unclean spirit"</i> (v. 2). Through this encounter and narration of the story, we see that this man's issue was a spiritual matter in which he found himself bound and overtaken by something stronger which was affecting every area of his life. An <i>"unclean spirit"</i> reveals that this person was possessed or demonized.</p> <p>NOTE: It is very difficult for our Western mindset to grasp this reality, especially in our everyday lives, but throughout Scripture, we see evidence of demonic influence and possession.</p> <p>WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE FOR THIS MAN?</p> <p>v. 3 – <i>"he lived in the tombs."</i> – He was an utter social outcast. v. 4 - <i>"no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain"</i> – He was out of control. v. 5 - <i>"Night and day...he would cry out and cut himself with stones"</i> – He endured self-inflicted agony.</p> <p>SEVERAL TRUTHS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS MAN'S ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS:</p> <p>1. SOMETIMES, THE ROOT OF PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS THAT AFFECT THEM CAN BE SPIRITUAL IN NATURE (v. 1-2)</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>2. NO MATTER HOW DARK AND BLEAK A PERSON'S SITUATION IS THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR THEM. (v. 3-5)</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>

3. WHILE OTHERS GAVE UP ON THIS MAN, JESUS' ENCOUNTER WITH HIM BROUGHT DELIVERANCE AND FREEDOM.

WE HAVE A TENDENCY OF DEALING WITH PEOPLE AND SITUATIONS IN WAYS THAT ARE NOT REALLY EFFECTIVE TO LEAD THEM TO FREEDOM.

4. ONE SMALL STEP TOWARDS JESUS CAN BE WHAT'S NEEDED TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF HEALING AND FREEDOM IN YOUR LIFE. (v. 6-14)

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!" 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. 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. 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.

5. PEOPLE WILL RESPOND DIFFERENTLY TO THE NEW AND FREE YOU BUT STAY YOUR COURSE PURSUING JESUS. (v. 14-17)

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.

6. OUR STORY OF DELIVERANCE BECOMES WHAT GOD USES TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS AND WHAT HE CAN DO FOR THEM. (v. 18-20)

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.

How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?

People are sometimes in hopeless situations and overwhelmed by them. This story clearly shows that Jesus can transform people's lives and has power and authority over the spiritual forces of darkness. Now that we are in Christ we are called to walk in

	Freedom. And as the Apostle Paul stated in Ephesians 6 to be “ <i>strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.</i> ”
NEXTSTEPS	Begin Connect Engage Grow Disciple This includes all areas of next steps since it addresses many people who will be listening to this message.

Mark 5:1-20

*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!” 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. 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. 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.*

FULL SERIES DESCRIPTION:

People have many complex reasons for struggling to connect with God. The hurts of life keep people from believing God wants them, accepts them, or even cares. But one of the names God gave us for Himself is “the One who sees me.” (Genesis 16:13). Jesus, who became human, sees us in our pain, doubts, and disappointments and offers His healing. Jesus sees the things that bind us, the battles we cannot win, things we cannot defeat, the ways people have used us, and He offers His freedom. Come find hope from the gospel of Mark as we learn that we are Seen by God no matter where we are in life.