



Amazed!

Mark 5:1-20

Read Mark 5:1-20 together:

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain,⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him.⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him.⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside,¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them."¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened.¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs.¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Context:

- ? What is the context of this passage? What had happened earlier in Mark 4:35-41?
- ? Who are the characters in this passage, both seen and unseen?
- ? There are two clear sides in the passage. As John Eldredge said, "We are caught up in a love story set in a world at war." What does this mean, and how does it relate to Mark 5:1-20?

Be Amazed at the Difference Jesus Can Make in a Life:

- ? How did Jesus transform the man with the unclean spirit? Satan would like to keep you like him (i.e., shackled, mad, distracted, and destructive). How have Jesus' words transformed you?
- ? Why do you think Jesus instructed the man to go home and tell how much the Lord had done for him (vv. 18-20)?
- ? How is your faith impacted when you hear about a life transformed by Jesus?

Be Amazed at the Devastation Satan Can Cause in a Life:

- ? Contrast the two distinct missions of Jesus and the Enemy as depicted in John 10:10.
- ? The devil will drive you to waste your life, opportunities, and gifts to chase meaningless things and futile shallowness. How can you ward against the devil's schemes (see John 15:4-5)?

Be Amazed at the Desperation of the Enemy:

- ? Satan is defeated, damned, and desperate. He acts out and tries to leave nothing alive in humanity. Discuss what C.S. Lewis describes as the two errors in understanding the devil: 1.) To disbelieve in his existence and 2.) To believe in his existence and have an excessive unhealthy interest in him.
- ? We are not weaponless against the Evil One (see Ephesians 6:10-17). What spiritual weapons do you rely on when faced with a spiritual battle?

Be Amazed at the Deliverance of a Gentile:

- ? Jesus loved the unlovable and went outside of societal expectations, even when it meant loving the unexpected and reviled. How does this truth give you hope?

Be Amazed at the Disclosure of Jesus' Absolute Authority:

- ? The disciples got to know Jesus better over time. They learned about his authority over nature, illness, demons, and even death. Their faith grew because of what they experienced with Jesus. As modern-day Christ followers, how can we get to know Jesus better to increase our faith and submit to his authority?

Application:

- ? The Greek word "thaumazó" means "astonished out of one's senses; awestruck; wondering very greatly; to cause wonder; to regard with amazement and with a suggestion of beginning to speculate on the matter." When was the last time you were awestruck by the work of God in your life? This week, spend time with the Lord in gratitude for the grace he has extended to you.
- ? Share your God story with those in your sphere of influence. What have you recently learned, or what areas of your life have changed because of Jesus?