

Demons, Pigs, & Jesus | Mark 5:1-20 | 10.28.18

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors...” C.S. Lewis

GBC Articles of Faith: (IV)

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man’s great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the of the present apostasy; the lord of antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness – destined, however, to final defeat at the hands of God’s own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:24-17, Matthew 4:1-3, 13:39, 25:31, Mark 13:21-22, Luke 22:3-4, John 14:30, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, Ephesians 2:2, 6:10-20, 1 Thessalonians 3:5, 2 Thessalonians 2:8-11, 1 Peter 5:8, 2 Peter 2:4, 1 John 2:22, 3:8,4:3, 2 John 7, Jude 6, Revelation 12:7-10, 13:13-14, 19:11,16,20, 20:1-3

“Why does God allow Satan to have such freedom? Satan is a lion, but he is on a leash held by God himself. Satan is more powerful and intelligent than any human, he has had 6000 years of practice in deceiving mankind, and he knows all of our weaknesses. However, he is still a created being and under the control of an omnipotent God. **This means whenever demons are doing horrible things, God is not stopping them from doing it. In not commanding them to stop, God has a reason for allowing them to do what they are doing.**” John Piper

Romans 11:33-36 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?” ³⁵“Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?” ³⁶For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

John 6:67-69 *Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” ⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, “**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.**” ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”*

2 Corinthians 2:11 *lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*
2 Corinthians 4:3 *whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.*

- Our thoughts and feelings are not trustworthy.
- Don’t believe everything you think.
- Allow Scripture to be your counselor, not your emotions.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, (sober minded) be vigilant;(watchful, alert) because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Mark 5:1-7 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ² And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, ³ who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, ⁴ because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. ⁵ And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. ⁷ And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me."

The presence of Jesus caused demons to do two things:

(1) Recognize His deity. (2) Acknowledge their judgment.

- A visible or verbal form of worship does not necessarily equate genuine worship.
- A genuine believer cannot be possessed by a demon due to the fact that the Holy Spirit takes residence within everyone who is in Christ.

Mark 5:17 Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

Eight applications from the request for Jesus to leave!

1. It's a common reaction to reject what we fear or do not understand.
2. A careful student of Scripture should not be intimidated by his/her culture.
3. Wisdom would have led the citizens to do research before pressing Jesus to leave.
4. Many who reject Jesus do so without ever reading one gospel account about him.
5. Very few people give attention to their soul or eternity.
6. Many people are offended by the church and therefore never make it to Christ.
7. Biblical truth should offend people, not the Christian themselves.
8. Believers are called by Christ to be the salt and light to those who are unsaved.

Mark 5:19-20 Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." ²⁰ And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis (ten cities) all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

1. Every believer has a story of their conversion to Christ.
2. Most people who come to Christ do so as a result of a family member or friend.

Four questions we should ask ourselves regarding Mark & every text:

1. What does this text teach about God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?
2. What does this text teach about sinful humanity and our fallen world?
3. What does God want me to know about this text?
4. What does God want me to do about what I know?