

Christ's Sovereignty – Part 2
Mark 5:1-20
Series: Christ Our Focus

1. Introduction

- a. Our last study saw Christ's sovereign control of nature
- b. This study will focus on Christ's sovereign control over the spiritual world
- c. In both cases Christ commands that a storm be placated.

2. Verses 1-5 – The Man

- a. Jesus meets a man with an unclean spirit, living among unclean tombs surrounded by people employed in unclean occupations, in an unclean gentile territory.

b. Verses 1-2 –

- i. Immediately – a sovereign appointment
- ii. His awful condition

1. A Man out of the tombs

- a. Ceremoniously unclean
- b. **Numbers 19:11-12** "Whoever touches the dead body of any person shall be unclean seven days. (12) He shall cleanse himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day, and so be clean. But if he does not cleanse himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not become clean.

2. Unclean spirit –

- a. Demonic possession

c. Verses 3-4

- i. He lived among the tombs
- ii. Man had attempted to bind him – control not freedom
 - 1. he was uncontrollable with supernatural strength
 - 2. Man's attempt to help him had failed him
 - 3. The word "bind" is used in the new testament in regards to taming wild beast
 - a. **James 3:7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

d. Verse 5 –

- i. Night and day – no relief

- ii. Crying out – screaming in agony
 - iii. Cutting himself – wanting to die but he couldn't
 - 1. **John 8:44** You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - e. The vocabulary here is raw and brutal –
 - i. This man is havoc and wreaks havoc on all
 - ii. He is a terror to himself and to others.
 - iii. No one can help him
3. Verses 6-7 – the demon
- a. Verse 6
 - i. At the sight of Jesus every knee bows
 - 1. **Philippians 2:10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
 - ii. The Greek word for falling on the knees is *proskymein*, it denotes prostrating oneself before a person to whom reverence or worship is due
 - b. Verses 7 – do not torment us
 - i. Plural
 - ii. There is a place where demons do not want to go
 - 1. **2 Peter 2:4** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;
4. Verses 8-10 – Christ's authoritative word
- a. The unclean spirit is expelled from the demon-possessed man solely by the authoritative word of Jesus
 - b. The power to prevail over the demonic world resides in Jesus.
 - c. His word is deed
 - d. Legion – the grip over this man is the grip of a roman legion composed of 5,600 soldiers – yet a legion must bow to Christ.
 - i. Begged earnestly – they were safe from Jesus typically in an area that was unclean.

- ii. They want to stay. They want the mercy of Jesus because they are afraid of his wrath.
- e. The demons cannot resist the authority of Jesus and must do that which they do not want to do.

5. Verses 11-13 – The Pigs

- a. Christ allows the unclean spirits to enter the swine and the owner suffered great loss. People are more important.
 - i. The rescue and restoration of a man is more important than vast capital assets.
 - ii. The owners of the pig would not see it in this way.
 - iii. Humans prize things more than salvation.

6. Verses 14-17 – the peoples reaction

- a. They find the infamous demoniac in his right mind
 - i. They should be petrified but thankful
 - ii. This man is now a disciple of Christ and better because of it.
- b. Both the stilling of the storm and this story end in fear.
 - i. Both are in awe and fear of the power of Christ.
 - ii. Miracles observed:
 - 1. The disciples fear drives them a deep and abiding faith in Christ.
 - 2. The fear of the townspeople does not produce faith.
 - iii. Most people ask to see a manifestation of God
 - 1. The truth is that man does not want to see God's power.
 - iv. The calm man is a picture of the calm sea.
 - v. Jesus brings creation out of Chaos.
- c. The townspeople value enterprise more than men.
- d. The demons were not killed but stayed in the area.
- e. In not bowing to Christ, their spiritual state is now worse than before
 - i. **Matthew 12:43-45** "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. (44) Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. (45) Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits

more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

7. Verses 18-20 – Go and preach

- a. The man asks to become a disciple but is forbidden to follow Christ directly.
 - i. Possible a hindrance because he is a Gentile.
- b. Christ commands him to go and speak – all other times Christ commands for silence.
- c. While Christ is banished from the region –
 - i. He does not leave the area without leaving someone to preach.
 - ii. The mercy of God.
 - iii. God gives us so many opportunities
 1. Gospel
 2. This man becomes the first missionary-preacher and remarkably, he is a Gentile sent to Gentiles.
- d. Those of us who have been delivered must go and preach Jesus to those we know.
- e. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you
 - i. Christ calls himself Lord.

8. Benediction –

- a. **2 Corinthians 5:18-21** All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (20) Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (21) For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.