

Mark 5:1-20 — "Christ's Power: The Maniac Becomes a Missionary!"

God can take the most shambled, broken, destructive and hopeless person and re-create them and wash them and use them!

Background to Mark 5.1-20

- Background to Mark 4-5: **Christ's power & authority!**
 - Christ's power over DISASTER (4:35-41)
 - **Christ's power over DEMONS (5:1-20)**
 - Christ's power over DISEASE (5:25-34)
 - Christ's power over DEATH (5:21-24, 35-43)

AN INTERESTING SIDE STUDY: WHAT DOCTRINES DO WE LEARN ABOUT FROM THIS TEXT?

1. Christology - Jesus - God of all power, providence, mercy, grace & deliverance!
2. Anthropology - helpless inability of man; depraved, wretched, God-hating, unclean
3. Hamartiology - how sin strangles, it confines, it permeates, it destroys.
4. Demonology - they know Christ; they submit to Christ; they will perish.
5. Soteriology - Christ alone saves, delivers, fully washes & *transforms!*
6. Eschatology - all demons (&unsaved) will be tormented under God's wrath
7. Theology - how the LORD had mercy on you

THESIS — Let's gaze upon Christ as we journey thru this story.

1. The Guy who seems too wicked to be saved! (*Depravity!*) (1-5)
2. The Savior who is able to save completely! (*Deliverance!*) (6-13)
3. The Transformation in the man's heart & life! (*Discipleship!*) (14-20)

I. THE GUY WHO SEEMS TOO WICKED TO BE SAVED! (1-5)

*THE KEY IDEA: **DEPRAVITY***

II. THE SAVIOR WHO IS ABLE TO SAVE COMPLETELY! (6-13)*THE KEY IDEA: **DELIVERANCE***

Consider the structure of this account and how it emphasizes the middle section:

A vv.1-6 = the deplorable, despicable condition of this **CORRUPT MAN**.**B vv.7-13 = the destruction of the demons**A' vv.14-20 = the delivered, delightful, demeanor of this **CHANGED MAN!****★ Consider the Demons' Christology:**

- They identified him as "Jesus"
- they knew he was GOD (Son of the Most High God) - Gen 14.18, 19, 20
- They affirmed there is ONE GOD MOST HIGH (and it's not Satan)
- They needed permission from Christ (12)
- They understood eternal hell awaits them ('before the time') - Rev 20.10ff
- they obeyed the word of Christ

Spurgeon had several wise comments on the way the demons affected the swine: "Swine prefer death to devilry; and if men were not worse than swine, they would be of the same opinion." "They run hard whom the devil drives." "The devil drives his hogs to a bad market."

As an aside:

- ***It should be noted, however:** that the Apostles were given authority & power by Christ to 'cast out demons' (Mark 3.15) and after Jesus & the Apostles died & passed away, there is **never** a command for NT Christians (in the epistles) to cast out demons (ever!). The only way to be delivered from demons and demonic control is through *saving faith in Jesus Christ & humbly crying out to Him alone!*
- **Never** are YOU AND I commanded to cast them out, rebuke them, bind them, to command them. Rather, we indeed understand the reality of demonic activity, we trust in Christ & His authority, we preach the gospel to the lost & call them to repent of sin & trust in Christ who has all authority over sin, death, satan & demons & the dark forces of evil!
- **Marvel at the sovereign authority of Jesus Christ!!**

III. THE TRANSFORMATION IN THE MAN'S HEART & LIFE! (14-20)*THE KEY IDEA: **DISCIPLESHIP***

Marvel at the power of Christ in the transformation of this demonized man! — vv.15-20

1. Jesus CHANGED him

2. Jesus CLOTHED HIM

3. Jesus CALMED Him

Perhaps one of the disciples had fetched an extra robe for the man from the boat. In his right mind, while declaring his restored sanity, has the basic meaning of "self-controlled." He was now a rational, self-controlled being, no longer yelling in frenzy under the domination of demons. (D.E. Hiebert)

4. Jesus COMMISSIONED him

★ The man was compelled (1) TO **DESIRE** Jesus (18) and (2) TO **DECLARE** Jesus (19-20)

This story clearly brings out TWO responses to Jesus:

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am.

*Redeemed, redeemed, Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! His child, & forever, I am.*

I think of my blessed Redeemer, I think of Him all the day long;
I sing, for I cannot be silent; His love is the theme of my song.

I know I shall see in His beauty The King in whose law I delight,
Who lovingly guardeth my footsteps, And giveth me songs in the night.

— Fanny Crosby

What changes did Jesus make in the man??? [by John Butler]

1. **Resting.** "Sitting." This was a new posture for the man. Before Christ cast out the demons, the man was constantly roaming about the tombs and mountains and wilderness day and night. This speaks of the soul rest promised in the Gospel. Christ said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest" ([Matthew 11:28](#)). One of the characteristics of sin is lack of rest ([Isaiah 57:20, 21](#)). But when Christ changes your life, one result is great soul rest.

2. **Respect.** "Sitting at the feet of Jesus." Before the man was delivered of the demons, he wanted nothing to do with Christ ([Luke 8:28](#)). But after Christ changed his life, the man now greatly respected Christ and sat humbly at Christ's feet. Animosity towards Christ ends with redemption.

3. **Robed.** "Clothed." Before Christ changed this man's life, he "wore no clothes" ([Luke 8:27](#)). This robing of the man not only pictures the righteous robe of salvation ([Isaiah 61:10](#)), but it also pictures the improvement in morals (seen in more modest dress) of a person when he gets saved. Even in heathen countries, when people get saved, they start wearing more clothes instead of running around half naked. The immodest clothes at church reveal a spiritual problem.

4. **Rational.** "In his right mind." Satan would have folk think that to follow Christ is crazy, unintelligent, and stupid. But the very opposite is true. It is those who follow Satan and are controlled by his demons that act crazy. When this man was possessed by demons, he acted insane. But when Christ changed the man, he acted rational, sane, and sober. Sin, not Christ and righteousness, causes people to act foolishly and irrationally.

SOLDIERS OF CHRIST ARISE (*tune: Crown him with many crowns*)

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal
Son.
Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.

Jesus hath died for you! What can His love withstand?
Believe, hold fast your shield, and who shall pluck you from His
hand?
Believe that Jesus reigns; all power to Him is giv'n:
Believe, till freed from sin's remains; believe always till Heav'n.

Stand then in His great might, with all His strength endued,
But take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God;
That, having all things done, and all your conflicts passed,
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone and stand entire at last.

Pray without ceasing, pray, your Captain gives the word;
His summons cheerfully obey and call upon the Lord;
To God your every want in instant prayer display,
Pray always; pray and never faint; pray, without ceasing, pray!

But, above all, lay hold on faith's victorious shield;
Armed with that adamant and gold, be sure to win the field:
If faith surround your heart, Satan shall be subdued,
Repelled his every fiery dart, and quenched with Jesu's blood.

From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray,
Tread all the powers of darkness down and win the well fought
day.
Still let the Spirit cry in all His soldiers, "Come!"
Till Christ the Lord descends from high and takes the
conquerors home.