

WEEK OF MAY 31, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



*Legion Set Free
Mark 5:1-20*

Provided by



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Mark 5:1-20

So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?”

And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.

There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.”

So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.” So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

Day 1: Seeing Beyond the Brokenness

Devotional

We all know someone whose life appears completely shattered. Maybe it's the neighbor struggling with addiction, the coworker battling depression, or even the person staring back at us in the mirror. When brokenness becomes overwhelming, it's easy to stop seeing the person and only see the problem. Yet underneath every broken life is someone created in God's image.

The man in Mark 5 had been reduced to his demons in the eyes of his community. They saw a problem to manage, not a person to love. But Jesus saw differently. He saw a man worth crossing a lake for, worth confronting a legion of demons for, worth restoring completely. When we look at broken people through Jesus' eyes, we begin to see their true identity - not defined by their struggles, but by their Creator. This shift in perspective changes everything about how we approach both ourselves and others.

Bible Verse

'When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him.' - Mark 5:2

Reflection Question

Who in your life have you stopped seeing as a person and started seeing only as their problem or brokenness?

Quote

Underneath all of that brokenness, there's still a person that's made in the image of God.

Prayer

Lord, help me see others as You see them - not defined by their struggles but by Your love. Give me Your heart for the broken and hurting around me. Amen.

Day 2: The Comfort of Manageable Dysfunction

Devotional

There's something unsettling about this truth: sometimes we prefer the brokenness we can control over the healing we cannot. The community around the demon-possessed man had developed a system. They couldn't heal him, so they managed him with chains and isolation. When those failed, they simply avoided him. It worked - sort of. The dysfunction functioned, but it wasn't healthy or peaceful.

We can fall into the same pattern. Sometimes we become so accustomed to brokenness that we stop believing change is possible. Like the townspeople, we learn how to work around problems, avoid them, or contain them. But chains never restored this man. Isolation never healed him. Avoidance never changed him. Only Jesus could do that. The same Lord who set this man free still has the power to bring transformation where human solutions fall short.

Bible Verse

'This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.' - Mark 5:3

Reflection Question

What area of brokenness in your life have you learned to manage rather than surrender to Jesus for complete transformation?

Quote

People can become more comfortable with brokenness, that they can manage, than transformation they cannot control.

Prayer

Jesus, I confess I sometimes prefer my manageable dysfunction over Your transforming power. Help me trust You enough to let go of control. Amen

Day 3: When Demons Recognize What We Miss

Devotional

Here's a striking detail from Mark 5: while the disciples were still figuring out who Jesus was, the demons recognized His authority immediately. They didn't question His power or debate His identity - they knew exactly who stood before them and trembled.

The legion of demons that had overwhelmed this man's life all remained under Christ's complete sovereignty. Not one could act without His permission. This should encourage us tremendously. Whatever area of life feels beyond our control is never beyond Christ's authority. The very forces that seemed to dominate this man had to bow before Jesus.

When we feel overwhelmed, we can take comfort knowing that Jesus possesses authority over every power, circumstance, and struggle. The question is not whether He is able. The question is whether we will recognize His authority and trust Him.

Bible Verse

When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him.' - Mark 5:6

Reflection Question

What area of your life feels beyond your control but remains completely under Christ's authority?

Quote

The disciples are asking, who is this man? But the demons already know who he is. They recognize the authority of Christ from far away immediately.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge Your authority over every area of my life. Help me trust in Your power when I feel overwhelmed by internal battles. Amen.

Day 4: The Fear of Disruptive Healing

Devotional

The townspeople's reaction to the man's healing reveals something uncomfortable about human nature. When they saw him sitting peacefully, clothed and in his right mind, they became afraid and asked Jesus to leave.

Why would restoration frighten them? Because healing disrupted more than a man's suffering. The loss of the pigs carried an economic cost. The townspeople were forced to choose between celebrating a restored man and protecting the comfort and stability they valued. Rather than welcoming Jesus, they asked Him to leave.

We can fall into this same trap. Sometimes we want Jesus close enough to comfort us but not close enough to confront us. We want His peace without His transformation, His blessing without His lordship. But Jesus doesn't come to decorate our tombs - He comes to bring life. Real healing often disrupts our comfortable patterns and challenges our controlled environments. The question we must ask ourselves is: are we willing to let Jesus heal us completely, even if it means our world gets turned upside down?

Bible Verse

'A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid.' - Mark 5:15

Reflection Question

In what ways might you be wanting Jesus close enough to comfort you but not close enough to confront and transform you?

Quote

Sometimes people become so comfortable with manageable brokenness that they resist the very healing they need.

Prayer

Jesus, I want Your complete healing in my life, even if it disrupts my comfortable patterns. Help me embrace Your transforming work. Amen.

Day 5: Sent to Tell the Story

Devotional

Jesus not only restored this man, He gave him a mission. The man wanted to climb into the boat and follow Jesus, but Jesus had another assignment for him. He was to go home and tell his story. He didn't need years of training or all the answers. He simply needed to tell people what the Lord had done and how merciful He had been. The man obeyed, and people throughout the Ten Towns were amazed. One restored life became a powerful witness. God still works this way today. Every believer has a story of grace to tell. When we share what Jesus has done in our lives, we point others toward the same Savior who changes lives.

This truth should revolutionize how we see both ourselves and others. Maybe you feel like that person everyone has given up on. Perhaps you've given up on yourself. But Jesus sees you differently. You are worth crossing any distance for. You are worth confronting any storm for. You are worth His time, His attention, His love. And just as Jesus moved toward the person others avoided, He may be calling you to do the same. The person everyone has written off may be exactly who Jesus is moving you toward. When we follow His example of intentional love toward the broken and forgotten, we become part of His restoration work in the world. No one is beyond His reach, and no one is beyond His love.

Bible Verse

'But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." - Mark 5:19

Reflection Question

What has Jesus done in your life that you need to share with someone else this week?

Quote

Jesus crossed the lake for a man everyone else avoided. And if we follow Jesus, we cannot only move toward people who are polished and comfortable people to be around. We must reach those who are tarnished by sin. We must reach the broken. We must reach the desperate. We must reach the tormented image bearers of God.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your mercy in my life. Give me the courage to tell others what You have done for me and to point them toward Jesus. Amen.