

Summary

In this sermon from Mark 5:1-20, Pastor Mike explores the dramatic account of Jesus healing a demon-possessed man in the region of the Gerasenes. The man was utterly broken, living among tombs, tormented day and night, bound by chains he could not be held by, and cutting himself with sharp stones. Yet when Jesus arrived, the demons immediately recognized His authority as the Son of the Most High God. Jesus cast out the legion of demons, sending them into a herd of pigs, and the man was found sitting calmly, clothed and in His right mind. The townspeople, rather than rejoicing, asked Jesus to leave, while the healed man begged to go with Him. Instead, Jesus commissioned him to go home and tell His family what the Lord had done for Him. The sermon draws out four key insights from this passage. First, demons are real and active in the unseen world around us. Second, the purpose of demons is to destroy, just as the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). Third, Jesus is all-powerful and has complete authority over the devil and His demons, having defeated them at the cross. Fourth, Jesus sets people free, not only from demon possession but from the bondage of sin, sinful emotions, and destructive behaviors that can control even believers. The sermon closes with a call to those who are being controlled by sin to cry out to Jesus for freedom, and to those who have been set free to go and tell others what He has done.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today grateful for the truth of Your Word and the power of Your Son, Jesus Christ. As we open this discussion together, we ask that You would quiet our hearts and minds and make us receptive to what You want to speak to each of us personally. Holy Spirit, guide our conversation, bring clarity to what we have heard, and help us to be honest with one another and with You. May this time together draw us closer to Jesus and to each other. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing that has surprised you or caught you off guard this past week, big or small?

Key Verses

- Mark 5:1-20
- Ephesians 6:12

- John 10:10
- 1 John 4:4
- Colossians 1:13-14
- Galatians 5:1
- James 2:19

Questions

- Before this sermon, how did you think about the topic of demons? Did you tend to dismiss the idea, feel uneasy about it, or somewhere in between?
- C.S. Lewis wrote that there are two equal and opposite errors regarding demons: disbelieving in their existence and having an unhealthy, excessive interest in them. Which of these two errors do you think is more common in our culture today, and why?
- The demon-possessed man in Mark 5 was bound by chains and shackles that could not hold him, yet he was still not free. In what ways do you see people today trying to manage or contain brokenness in their own lives or in others, rather than seeking true healing?
- The townspeople witnessed an incredible miracle but asked Jesus to leave because they were afraid and their way of life felt threatened. Have you ever experienced a moment where the work of God felt uncomfortable or costly to you? What did you do with that feeling?
- The sermon emphasized that Jesus is all-powerful and has complete authority over the devil and His demons. How does that truth practically change the way you respond when you feel spiritually attacked or tempted?
- Pastor Mike shared a personal story about being controlled by bitterness and unforgiveness during his college years. Can you think of a sinful emotion or behavior, such as anger, worry, jealousy, or bitterness, that has had a grip on your life at some point? How did you find freedom, or are you still looking for it?
- Jesus told the healed man not to follow Him but to go home and tell His family what the Lord had done for Him. Why do you think Jesus gave him that specific instruction rather than letting Him travel with the disciples? What does that tell us about the value of personal testimony?
- The sermon ended with a challenge to tell people when Jesus sets you free. What is one part of your story of what God has done for you that you could share with someone in your life this week?

Life Application

This week, take some time alone with God and honestly ask Him to show you if there is a sinful emotion, habit, or behavior that has been controlling you. It might be anger, bitterness, worry, pornography, or something else entirely. Write it down, bring it to Jesus in prayer, and specifically ask Him to set you free. Then, find one person, whether a family member, a close friend, or someone in your small group, and share with them something meaningful that Jesus has done in your life. Let your story be a light, just as Jesus commissioned the healed man to go and tell.

Key Takeaways

- Demons are real and active in the unseen spiritual world around us. We must neither dismiss their existence nor develop an unhealthy obsession with them, but we must take seriously the reality of spiritual warfare as described in Ephesians 6:12.
- The purpose of demons, and of the devil himself, is to destroy. John 10:10 makes clear that the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy, and the story of the demon-possessed man illustrates this destructive intent vividly.
- Jesus is all-powerful and has complete authority over the devil and His demons. His victory was secured at the cross and through His resurrection, and 1 John 4:4 reminds us that the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world.
- Jesus sets people free, not only from demon possession but from the bondage of sin that holds every person apart from Him. This freedom is available to every believer who cries out to Him, whether they are coming to faith for the first time or struggling with patterns of sin as a Christian.
- When Jesus sets you free, you are called to tell others. The healed man was commissioned to go home and share his story, and that same calling belongs to every follower of Jesus today.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for the truth we have wrestled with together today. Thank You that You are not distant or indifferent to our struggles, but that You came, You healed, and You set people free. We confess that there are areas in each of our lives where we need Your power and Your grace. We ask that You would do the work of freedom in us that only You can do. Give us the courage to bring our hidden sins and our deepest bondages to You, trusting that You are greater than anything that holds us. And when You

set us free, give us the boldness to tell others what You have done. May our lives be a testimony to Your mercy and Your power. We pray all of this in the strong and mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen.