

Jesus Provides STRENGTH for Deliverance

Today's story is found in Mark 5 and is the story of Jesus and The Demoniac of Gadarene. It's a story about a demon possessed man and how Jesus sets him free. Let's watch the story on video – you can follow the scripture word for word on your message notes.

Play video of this story –

- <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/the-gospel-of-mark/demon-cast-out>

Mark 5:1-20

So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴ 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. ⁵ Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

⁶ When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. ⁷ 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!” ⁸ For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

⁹ Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?”

And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” ¹⁰ Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.

¹¹ There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. ¹² “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.”

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ Then those who had seen what

happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. ¹⁷ And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ 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."

What does this story tell us about who Jesus is?

Jesus is THE DELIVERER

The good news of the gospel is that through the cross Jesus saves us. He can also deliver us. The cross doesn't just pay the price for our sins but also for our freedom. We are also given power of darkness and demons and anything that hinders us. In this life we can be free.

A few principles we can learn from this story . . .

Demons are REAL

In this story Jesus and his disciples encounter a man who is possessed by an evil spirit. This is how we know that demons are real because the Bible says they are real. This story is not an allegory or a parable – it really happened. The scriptures says

- **Mark 5:2** *"a man possessed by an evil spirit"*

What are demons?

Demons are malevolent, evil spirit beings. They are the enemies of God and man. Their objectives toward us are to deceive, tempt, accuse, condemn, defile, pressure, resist, oppose, steal, control, afflict, kill and destroy. Paul described them . . .

- **Ephesians 6:12** *"We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."*

How many would agree that the powers and forces that Jesus faced and Paul wrote about in the first century are still working in the twenty-first century?

Look at the effects this demonically possessed man –

- cut himself with stones,
- lived in the tombs, a cemetery (place of death),
- tore his clothes off,
- was violent and angry . . .

Isn't it interesting to compare the demonic influences on this man and our current culture's obsession with . . .

- Violence and blood
- Obsession with death
- Nudity
- Cutting or self-harm

We can see the influence of the demonic realm in our culture – in music, movies, video games, novels, books, hobbies and games We have many open doors where we have invited the darkness of the spiritual realm to negatively influence our lives.

Before we go any further I want to clarify what we are talking about. We are not talking about mental illness.

Some mistakenly believe what the early church called demonic activity we now understand to be mental illness. The good news that we do know more – a lot more – about mental illness than we ever have. Sadly, far too many have suffered from mental illness but others thought it to be spiritual in nature – but it wasn't. They were simply physically not well. So we are not saying that all mental illness is demonic activity and demonic activity is now mental illness.

But that doesn't change the fact that demons are real and very much alive. We also have to remember that we are made in the image of God – a trinity – we are also three in one – mind, body and spirit. And although we may not fully understand it – all three affect one another.

Demons are not as spectacular as the enemy likes us to make us think. They get a lot of help from special effects people in Hollywood in scaring us.

Hollywood has created an image in our minds from movies like. . . **The Exorcist** or **Poltergeist** or the **The Exorcism of Emily Rose**. But in my experience, demons are less scary than they are ugly.

Perhaps that's why the Bible sometimes calls demons unclean spirits.

Whenever I have seen demons manifested the one thing that always stands out to me is how ugly it is.

I have encountered people who are demon possessed on mission trips in other countries. I have also encountered them here in America.

Demons can only operate through permission. **They enter through “open doors”.**

(OPEN DOOR ILLUSTRATION – I will walk over to the door on the stage and open it. The person dressed up as the devil will walk through the door and “steal” the gifts from the stage and take them back through door. Important – leave the door open)

When we open the door to allow evil spirits, demonic influences into our lives, our families lives, we are inviting the enemy to do what he does – to STEAL, KILL AND DESTROY.

They will take our JOY
They will take our HOPE
They will take our PEACE

Some of us wander – how did that happen? For many (not all) we opened the door. How do we open the door? One way is by the things we watch, listen to or participate in.

If you want to learn more about this subject I encourage you to read THE BONDAGE BREAKER by Neal Anderson.

In his book he provides a spiritual history inventory to help uncover what might have opened the door to the enemy. Here is an abbreviated list (not complete)

<i>Seances</i>	<i>Ouija boards</i>	<i>fortune telling</i>	<i>Tarot Cards</i>	<i>Psychics</i>
<i>Crystals</i>	<i>clairvoyance</i>	<i>Santeria</i>	<i>Voodoo</i>	
<i>Qigong</i>	<i>Drugs</i>	<i>Astral projection</i>	<i>Divination games</i>	
<i>Dream catching</i>	<i>I Ching</i>	<i>Numerology</i>	<i>Astrology</i>	
<i>Psychic surgeons</i>	<i>Hypnosis</i>	<i>FREEMasonry</i>		
<i>Trances</i>	<i>Telepathy</i>	<i>Automatic writing</i>	<i>Transcendental Meditation</i>	
<i>Palm reading</i>	<i>Black Magic</i>	<i>Witchcraft</i>	<i>Spells</i>	

The very first thing to do in getting victory over darkness then is CLOSE THE DOOR. **(I will walk over to the door that was left open by “the devil” and close it.)**

Are demons real? Are there evil spiritual forces that affect us?

A lot of people in our culture do not believe that demons are real. That there is no such thing as demons or demon possession. What do you think?

- **VIDEO - The Exorcism of Emily Rose clip** Is it Real – Validate The Alternative and Is It Possible

- <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/the-exorcism-of-emily-rose/validate-the-alternative>
- <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/the-exorcism-of-emily-rose/is-it-possible?play=1>

So yes, demons are real. But that's only part of this story.

Jesus has AUTHORITY over all evil powers

We see this illustrated in how this story unfolds.

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

The very first thing this demonically possessed man – who broke chains off of him with super human strength, intimidated everyone in his town – the first thing he does is BOW TO JESUS.

The demon's name is Legion – there were many demons in this man. But they were all at the mercy of Jesus. All demons bow before Jesus.

- **Philippians 2:9-11** *"God exalted Him to the highest place, and gave Him the name above all names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,"*

When it comes to the pecking order in the spiritual realm JESUS IS THE MAN . .

Every devil in hell knows who Jesus is. The demoniac refers to Jesus as SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD. Demons know the scripture. Demons know the truth. This is why they operate where there is ignorance of spiritual matters, in deception and lying. Because if you know the truth about them you would know they are Toast.

- **Mark 5:9-10** *"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."*

The evil spirits begged Him. Notice begged. Original word here is . . . **parakaleo** . . the image is one casting themselves on the mercy of the court.

Evil spirits love to make you think that they are more powerful than God. More powerful than they really are. But please see this – this scary, demonically influenced man is begging Jesus for mercy.

First they begged Jesus not to send them to hell – which tells me hell must be pretty bad if the demons don't want to go there. So they begged him to cast them into the swine

And when they begged him notice it says *Jesus gave them permission (v.13)*.....This is a powerful statement here by Mark. Demons need permission to operate. . . . You have to open the door to allow them into your life.

Jesus has given believers AUTHORITY over every evil spirit

This is so powerful. We have already established that evil spirits recognize Jesus – they know Him as the king as the judge. They cast themselves on the mercy of his judgement. Because with “just a word” he can cast them out.

- **Matthew 8:16** *“When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word”*

What happens when I give my heart to Christ – when I am saved – when I decide to follow Christ. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in us.

Christ in us . . . Jesus gives us authority over evil spirit, every demon in hell.

Authority is delegated power. For instance, Policemen who direct traffic during the rush hour have the authority to raise their hands or blow a whistle for traffic to stop. These men or women don't have the physical power to stop the vehicle . But they don't use their own strength to stop traffic; they use the authority that is invested in them by the government they serve. People recognize that authority that stands behind them and stop their cars.

In the same way Jesus has delegated His authority over evil spirits to us. . . .

- **Luke 10:19** *“I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy.” NLT*
- **Matthew 10:8** *“...cast out demons” NLT*
- **Mark 16:17** *“These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name...” NLT*

In our confrontation with evil – we stand with the authority given to use by Jesus. The demons and evil spirits don't necessarily recognize our power – its Christ in us that they recognize.

If we have this authority then why are so many afflicted or harassed by evil? I think some believers don't know this – that they have been given authority by Jesus over evil spirits. But I also think we don't know how to use the authority we have been given.

Illustrate authority – It's not enough just to have authority – you have to be willing to use it and enforce that authority. Let's go back to the police officer illustration. If that police officer is directing traffic he has to be confident in his authority. He has been given a badge and a whistle. The badge is the symbol of authority he has been given. The whistle is what he uses to get everyone's attention. The officer will never stop any traffic from the side of the road – people will just pass on by. The officer has to step into the traffic and hold up his hand and blow the whistle **(I will blow a whistle here).**

You have the weight of the King of all the spiritual government behind you. But until you step out into spiritual traffic no one is going to pay attention to you. If the rules of the government are not enforced you still have anarchy. The only way they work is if they are enforced.

You have to use the authority and demonstrate it.

Ill from the Bondage Breaker book –

When I was a boy on the farm, my dad, my brother, and I would visit our neighbor's farm to share produce and labor. The neighbor had a yappy little dog that scared the socks off me. When it came barking around the corner, my dad and brother stood their ground, but I ran. Guess who the dog chased! I escaped to the top of our pickup truck while the little dog yapped at me from the ground. Everyone except me could see that the little dog had no power over me except what I gave it. Furthermore, it had no inherent power to throw me up on the pickup; it was my belief that put me up there. That dog controlled me by using my mind, my emotions, my will, and my muscles, all of which were motivated by fear. Finally I gathered up my courage, jumped off the pickup, and kicked a small rock at the mutt. Lo and behold, it ran! Satan is like that yappy little dog: deceiving people into fearing him more than God. His power is in the lie. He is the father of lies (John 8:44) who deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9), and consequently the whole world is under the influence of the evil one (1 John 5:19). He can do nothing about your position in Christ, but if he can deceive you into believing his lies about you and God, you will spend a lot of time on top of the pickup truck! You don't have to outshout him or outmuscle him to be free of his influence. You just have to out truth him. Believe, declare, and act upon the truth of God's Word, and you will thwart Satan's strategy.

If you are a follower of Christ – you have trusted Christ to save you – you have been given authority over demons and every evil spirit. You do not have to let them harass you or bother you in any way.

Some of you here today are waking up to the fact that the enemy has been harassing you and bothering you – it might not be demon possession – in fact if you are a follower of Jesus you cannot be possessed by a demon. It's impossible. Jesus said how can a house divided against itself stand The Bible also says we are the temple of the Holy Spirit.....

But you can still be oppressed or harassed by them.

Perhaps you have been suffering from nightmares or night terrors or anxiety or fear or an undo sense of worry. Sense of hopelessness, gloom and confusion. Perhaps you have been dealing with irrational feelings. I am talking about more than just going through the trials of life that we all experience – **you have a sense that something is wrong.**

You don't have to take it sitting down. Some of you have been deceived by the enemy who has been telling you that all these bad things happening to you are your fault. Somehow you deserve it. But that's not true.

What does taking authority look like? It might look like this scene from the movie The War Room. This scene depicts a woman who decides to take authority over the spiritual warfare she was experiencing.

VIDEO – The War Room – Get Out Devil Scene

Without salvation – without Jesus – you are subject to every evil spirit in this world. With Christ – through the power of the cross – you are free from every evil spirit in this world.

SALVATION ALTAR CALL HERE

The first and most important step in this is inviting Christ in. Follow Christ

The gospel message here

The vast majority of times people who are suffering from demonic influences, oppression or even possession – the open door is UNFORGIVENESS.

Years ago I read a book called LISTEN TO ME SATAN by an evangelist from Argentina. This man would preach crusades all over South America and each night they would have a tent for people to come who were possessed or harassed by demons. . . .

- **“Seventy percent of the people that come into our tent for deliverance are demonically possessed, but most of their spiritual problems are due to a lack of forgiveness.” Carlos Annacondia, Listen To Me Satan p.1-2-103**

This was the issue with the young man whose story I shared earlier – he had bitterness and anger in his life over his parent's divorce. It opened a door.

The very first thing you do to close the door is to forgive

DECLARATION PRAYER

- Dear heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I come to You. I acknowledge Your presence in this room and in my life. You are the only God. You are omniscient (all-knowing), omnipotent (all-powerful), and omnipresent (always present) God. I am dependent upon You, for apart from Jesus Christ I can do nothing. I stand in the truth that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to the resurrected Christ, and because I am in Christ I share that authority in order to make disciples and set captives free. I ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit and lead me into all truth. I pray for Your complete protection and ask for Your guidance.
- **Declaration** As a child of God seated with Christ in the heavenlies, and in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, I command Satan and all evil spirits to release me in order that I can be free to know and choose to do with will of God. I commit myself to do the will of God, and I submit my body to my heavenly Father as a living sacrifice, an instrument of righteousness. I refuse to be intimidated by Satan's lies, or to give in to any physical harassment. I am a child of God and the evil one cannot touch me.
- I renounce every open door I have allowed in my life. I renounce _____ (fill in the blank).
- I forgive every person who has hurt me, betrayed me, abused me, abandoned me or maligned me. I forgive (name them). They do not owe me anything. They are Yours. I ask you to bless them and draw them to Christ. I am trusting you to heal my heart Lord.
- Thank you for healing and freedom and authority in Jesus Christ.