

“A Legion of Problems”

Mark 5:1-20

Two Stories – One Message

While the story that begins chapter 5 is very different in details than the story that ended chapter 4, we will see today that there are several parallels in both stories, and the basic message is the same.

	Storm – Mark 4:35-41	Demons – Mark 5:1-20
Destination	v. 35 – Let’s go across to the other side	v. 1 – They came to the other side
Trouble	v. 37 – A great windstorm arose	v. 2 – A man with an unclean spirit
Severe Trouble	<i>What should be noted is that there’s more than trouble – it’s severe trouble!</i> v. 37 – the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling	v. 3 – He lived in the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain v. 4 – He had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him v. 5 – Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones
Helplessness	v. 37 – the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling v. 38 – We are perishing	v. 9 – My name is Legion, for we are many
Appeal to Jesus	v. 38- Teacher, don’t you care that we are perishing?	v. 7 – What have you to do with me Jesus, Son of the Most High God?
Miracle	Immediate calming of the sea	Immediate casting out of the demons
Jesus Rebukes	v. 39 – Peace! Be still!	v. 8 – Come out of the man you unclean spirit!
Peace	v. 39 – And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm	v. 15 – sitting there, clothed and in his right mind
Awe/Fear	v. 41 – And they were filled with great fear	v. 15 – And they were afraid
Message	Jesus is in control	Jesus is in control

For Us

1 – Jesus gives hope where no hope exists

- We have seen how helpless and hopeless this demon possessed man's case was –
- Luke's account gives us insight that makes his case seem even more hopeless –
 - 8:27 – “When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. ***For a long time*** he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs.”
- Don't the words “for a long time” make the degree of difficulty for the man even greater?!
- Jesus was not intimidating by this man's condition –
- Jesus is not intimidated by time – He made it!

2 – Jesus can make all things new –

- There's something about this story that may be frustrating to you –
- Here's a man overwhelmed by trouble –
- But Jesus enters, speaks the word, and he's cured!
 - Here's the frustration – Why doesn't He do that for me?
- Jesus can deliver instantly or with little process –
- Most often, Jesus used the long journey of sanctification –
 - His people applying His means of grace over time –
 - Bible, prayer, accountability in community, 3 steps forward and 2 steps back, worship, reading, counseling, discipleship, calling a friend, etc.
- Why does Jesus most often choose the long journey of sanctification?
 - One – The worth of the walk –**
 - Jesus delights in your walk with Him!
 - Two – Faith tried is faith proven –**
 - Your faith gets tested and therefore proven over time.
 - 1 Peter 1:6-9
 - Three – The true worth of Jesus is glorified –**
 - Four – This best equips you to give help and hope to others –**
 - 2 Cor. 1:3-7

3 – Jesus can give new meaning and purpose to your life –

- You can't help but rejoice with this man!
 - v. 15 – “And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind...”
- v. 18 – “As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.”
- v. 19 – “And he did not permit him but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.’”
- 20 – “And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.”