

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 10: Mark 5:1-20

Jesus encounters a demon-possessed man (vv. 1-10)

Matt. 8:28-29
Luke 8:26-31

- Lots of debate about the location of this event
 - Probably near the modern area of Kursi
- Unable to restrain him, the townspeople drove him off
- The man is more in a posture of subjection than worship (v. 6)
- The demons recognize Jesus and attempt to control Him...again

What are your thoughts on this quote from William Lane: "This account, more graphically than any other in the Gospels, indicates that the function of demonic possession is to distort and destroy the image of God in man"?

What was the purpose in calling himself/themselves "Legion"?

The demons enter a herd of pigs (vv. 11-17)

Matt. 8:30-34
Luke 8:32-37

- While there are 2000 pigs, we do not know the number of demons
- The locals are frightened because:
 - Such a large herd of pigs was destroyed
 - More importantly, because of the man's complete transformation

Why did Jesus allow the demons to enter the herd of pigs?

Why would the townspeople ask Jesus to leave?

A new witness in Decapolis (vv. 18-20)

Luke 8:38-39

- Decapolis: ten Greek cities liberated by Roman general Pompey
- Jesus does not allow the man to go with Him and the disciples
- Instead, He leaves him there to tell people what happened to him

What are the benefits of Jesus' assignment to the previously demon-possessed man?