

The Transformation of One Man's Story

Mark 5:1-20

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Mark 4:35 “On that day, when evening had come, He said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’”

The Decapolis was a pagan region east of the Sea of Galilee.

- It was inhabited by the people of 7 nations expelled from the promised land (Joshua 3:10).
- It was a center of pagan religions.
- It was a center of Roman rule.

Mark 5:1 “They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.”

I. We All Come to Jesus With a Story.

Jesus is met by one demon-possessed man.

Mark 5:2-5 “And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for 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. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones.”

II. Jesus isn't Surprised or Intimidated by the Chaos of Our Story.

When everyone else had given up hope, Jesus steps into this man's life.

Mark 5:6-17 “And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before Him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure You by God, do not torment me.’ ⁸ For He was saying to him, ‘Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!’ ⁹ And Jesus asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He replied, ‘My name is Legion, for we are many.’ ¹⁰ And he begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged Him, saying, ‘Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.’ ¹³ So He gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea. ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. 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, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.”

III. Jesus will Redeem Our Story for His Purposes.

Mark 5:18-20 “As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged Him that he might be with Him. 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.”

Jesus loved the people in this man's life too much to allow him to get in the boat. They needed to see for themselves the transformative touch of Jesus on this man's life.

Our stories are full of people that God loves. He loves them too much to let us continue to live a smaller story. Instead, He wraps us up in His greater story of redemption so others can see His goodness and glory.

Jesus' welcome on His second visit to the Decapolis is very different than His first.

Matthew 15:30-31 “And great crowds came to Him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at His feet, and He healed them, ³¹ so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.”

What changed between His first visit and His second? The story of one man.