

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"THE POWER OF JESUS OVER EVIL"

Big Idea: Those who are set free by Jesus rightly respond to him in surrender.

Discuss

In all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), the story of Jesus calming the wild sea is followed by this story of Jesus' encounter with the wild man (in Matthew's account, there are two men) possessed by demons. We have seen Jesus' complete power over the forces of nature. Now we are seeing his absolute power over the supernatural world.

- 1) Compare and contrast the help Jesus gave to this afflicted man with the helplessness (and heartlessness) of the residents of this region.
 - How have the inhabitants of this region reacted to and dealt with this man? (vv. 3-5) Where was he living and why? See also Matt. 8:28.
- 2) How did the demons react to Jesus? (vv. 7-12)
 - What did they recognize?
 - What apparently was open to discussion and what was not? (vv. 12 and 13)
- 3) It is hard to imagine a person whose spirit and mind are farther away from Jesus than this man's. He was also living outside the geographical region inhabited by Jews (Decapolis, mentioned in v. 20, included the cities of Damascus and Philadelphia—modern-day Amman, Jordan), and he was living in complete isolation.
 - What does this story tell us about the reach of Jesus' ministry? See also Isaiah 65:1.
 - What does this story tell us about the power of Jesus to draw people to himself? Is there anything that has to be in place before Jesus can act?
- 4) Once the man is delivered from the evil spirits that have possessed and controlled him, what was his reaction? (v. 18) What was the reaction of the people who "went out to see what had happened?" (v. 14-17)
 - Why would Jesus encourage this man to tell others about the mercy he has received (v. 19), when he told others who were healed not to tell anyone (see Mark 1:43, for example)? (Remember that the people living in this region were Gentiles, not Jews.)
- 5) The man wanted to do one thing (v. 18), but Jesus told him to do another (v. 19).
 - What lesson(s) might we learn from this story that could help us as we determine how to spend our own time?

DATE: January 7, 2018

SPEAKER: Jared/Brian

SERIES: Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 5:1-20

Pray

Praise God for his power over evil.

Confess the times you have responded to Jesus by trying to push him away, as the people in this story did, instead of surrendering to him as your merciful Lord.

Thank God for the great mercy he has shown you by making you his beloved child.

Pray for the extension of God's Kingdom throughout this world, and ask God to show you the ways he would have you share the good news with others.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Church of the First Born: Mercy, MVP, Smokin' for Jesus and Tutoring

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Becky Chinchon serving with Amani Ya Juu