

Connect

Who is the strongest person you have ever met or known about? Can you describe his strength? How do you think he can lose his strength?

Verses – Mark 5:1-20 (CSB)

1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. 3 He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain— 4 because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. 7 And he cried out with a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don’t torment me!” 8 For he had told him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” 9 “What is your name?” he asked him. “My name is Legion,” he answered him, “because we are many.” 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. 11 A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. 12 The demons begged him, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.” 13 So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there. 14 The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and saw the man who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs. 17 Then they began to beg him to leave their region. 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him earnestly that he might remain with him. 19 Jesus did not let him but told him, “Go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 So he went out and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and they were all amazed.

Study

1. Can you describe the condition of the man who met Jesus? Why do you think he knew Jesus' name and his title as Son of the Most High God? What has happened to him after his encounter with Jesus? (vv. 1-13, 15)

2. What was the response of the people in the town after knowing about what had happened to the man? Why did they ask Jesus to leave their place? (vv. 14-17)

☕ **DISCUSS 1:** Why do you think even today most people do not welcome Jesus into their places and lives?

3. What was the man's request to Jesus after he had been freed from the unclean spirit? What was Jesus' answer to his request? (vv. 18-20)

☕ **DISCUSS 2:** Why do you think Jesus responded the way he did to the man? How would Jesus respond today? How does He?

Share

Please share with your group about a specific sin that used to possess you and some of the life lessons that you have learned after being freed from that sin. How can your life experience be used for God's glory to bring help and hope to someone you know?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that the Lord will save those around us through the power of the Gospel.
- Would you like to serve this year at VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL?
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