

# MARK 5:1-20

## OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. This section deals with the story of the Gerasene demoniac. Where does this event take place? Describe the man as this passage does before and after Jesus casts the demons out of him (verses 2-5, 15).
2. Describe the interaction between Jesus and the demons within the man. Why does Jesus send the demons into the swine? How does Jesus interact with the man after he casts the demon out?
3. What is the response of the herdsman and people to the man? What is their response to Jesus?
4. What is the response of the people to the message of the demoniac (v. 20)??

## INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Compare the description of the demoniac with 3:20-27. How does this event help you understand the words of Jesus about the dynamics of the demonic?
2. Why do you think Jesus allows the demons to enter the swine? Compare the account with Luke 8:26ff. Why doesn't Jesus command them into the Abyss? Look up Revelation 20:1-3, Matthew 12:43-45. What happened to the demons when the pigs were destroyed? What does this story tell you about demons and their purposes and destiny?
3. Why are the people frightened when they see the man in his right mind? Why do the people ask Jesus to leave when they find out that Jesus performed this miracle?
4. Why in this instance does Jesus encourage the man to tell others what happened to him when previously he discouraged others to tell about him (1:44)? Why does he forbid the group at the end of this chapter from telling what he did (5:43)? What is the difference between the group of people in 1-20 and the group of people in verses 21-43?

## APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. How would you respond if your livelihood was destroyed for the sake of one life? What if you had to give up some resource of yours (savings, home, car) for the sake of one person being healed?
2. What area in your life is out of control? Is there an area or issue in your life which you feel you have no strength over?
3. Jesus tells the demoniac to tell what "great things the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you." Make a list of great things the Lord has done for you and in what ways he has had mercy on you. Tell this to someone this week.

## ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.