

Saturday, March 14 ~ Jesus vs. Satan ~ [Mark 5: 1-20](#)

The gospel of Mark tells stories of healing as Jesus travels with His disciples following His baptism. In Mark 5:1-20, Jesus meets a man who is possessed by many demons or evil spirits. Jesus, of course, completely heals the man by driving out the evil spirits into a herd of pigs, who then destroy the pigs. The herdsman and bystanders are in complete awe of Jesus' power. As Jesus left, He told the healed man to go home and tell everyone "what wonderful things the Lord had done and how merciful he has been." The healed man then left to spread the good news.

We have all experienced a form of evil that has been allowed to enter into our lives. The evil wants to distort and destroy our relationship with God. A demon's goal is to take control over the one they inhabit, but Jesus' goal is to give us freedom from sin and from Satan's control. The demon-possessed man became a living example of Jesus' power. We must stop in our tracks when we see the power of Satan trying to take over in our lives, and realize that the power of Jesus is much stronger and healthier!

Have you experienced Jesus' power in your life? If so, go share the good news with those around you. This will lead you "from ashes to glory"!

Theresa Johns is married to Hank and they have lived in Madison for 22 years. They have two married sons and five grandchildren. The five grandchildren have been known to make many "joyful noises" at the 9:00 service!

Mark 5:1-20 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Restores a Demon-Possessed Man

5 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.^[a] ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” ¹⁰And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹²The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” ¹³He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis^(b) how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Footnotes:

- a. **Mark 5:1** Some manuscripts *Gadarenes*; other manuscripts *Gergesenes*
- b. **Mark 5:20** That is, the Ten Cities