



## **The Story & Way of Jesus**

### **A Story of Restoration & Redemption**

Mark 5:1-20

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#### **Mark 5:1-20**

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 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. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 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!” For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

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

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

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” He 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. Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When 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. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus 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.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Fair on your hills, my City,  
Fair as the Queen of old,  
Supreme in her seven-hilled splendor-  
You, from your Gate of Gold,  
Facing the orient sunburst,  
Swathed in the sunset gleams,  
Throned in an ultimate glory,  
City of mists and of dreams!

- Ina Coolbrith, *To San Francisco*

What stories do is let us share and receive information in a way that creates an emotional connection; stories help us make sense of our world.

### **Mark 5:3-5**

This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 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. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

### **John 10:10**

[Satan] came to steal and kill and destroy.

- What is being stolen from you?
- What is being destroyed in your life or in the life of others around you?
- Where in your life are you wanting God's goodness to be restored to you?
- Or is there something missing in your life that you want God to restore or give to you?
- Think about broken relationships, broken promises, broken dreams – maybe there are lies that you believe about yourself or others.

“The world is not divided between Christ and the devil; it is completely the world of Christ, whether it recognizes this or not. As this reality in Christ it is to be addressed, and thus the false reality that it imagines itself to have, in itself or in the devil, is to be destroyed. The dark, evil world may not be surrendered to the devil, but must be claimed for the one who won it by coming in the flesh, by the death and resurrection of Christ.”

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Ethics*

### **Mark 5:15**

...the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind.

### **Matthew 10:7-8**

Proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.

Freely you have received; freely give.

- In what parts of your life do you need to be restored?
- Who do you want to see changed through the power of the gospel?
- How are you proclaiming the message of God's kingdom?