

## 4.03 JESUS CASTS OUT EVIL SPIRITS

### MARK 5:1-20

Jesus and His disciples had been crossing a lake by boat. There had been a big storm. The disciples had been frightened but Jesus calmed the storm by just telling the wind and the waves to stop. Then, as they arrived on the other side of the lake, Jesus was ready to help anyone who needed Him.

When Jesus got out of the boat, He saw a man coming toward Him who had an evil spirit. God's enemy, the devil, had many followers. These followers were called demons, or evil spirits. Sometimes these evil spirits would get busy causing trouble for people. Sometimes, a demon would work on his own. Sometimes there were several who worked together. They liked to create fear and torment.

The man who met Jesus had been living in a cave. He had several evil spirits bothering him. They made him howl like an animal. They made him try to hurt himself. If someone came to help the man, the demons caused him to fight back, so no one could get near him.

But the evil spirits knew who Jesus was. They caused the man to run to Jesus and cry out to Him saying, "Why are you here interrupting us, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Leave us alone! Don't bother us!"

Jesus had already said to the one of them, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

But since there was more than one demon causing trouble for this man, the spirits began to cry out together, "Don't send us away! We like it here." As the demons were speaking, Jesus saw a large herd of pigs on a nearby hill. The demons said, "Send us among the pigs. Let us go bother them."

At that time, there were two thousand pigs on the hillside. That was a lot of pigs! Jesus gave the evil spirits permission to leave the man and go to be among the pigs. When the pigs felt the presence of the demons around them, they began to run in fear. They ran down the hillside, into a lake and were drowned. See, even the evil spirits have to listen to Jesus. Jesus has the most power. Jesus is much more powerful than the demons.

The men taking care of the pigs were very, very surprised. They ran into town and began telling everyone what they had just seen. Everyone had to come back to the hillside to see for themselves. What they saw was the man who had been tormented by the demons now sitting there quietly. He was feeling healthy and strong. He was thinking clearly. He was healed.

The people were afraid. They were afraid of Jesus' power. They told Him to leave their area and go somewhere else. When Jesus was getting back into His boat, the healed man asked to go with Him. Jesus said, "No. You need to go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how much He loves you."

The man went back to his town of Decapolis and did what Jesus said. He began to tell how much Jesus had done for him. Everyone he told was amazed.

## **4.03 JESUS CASTS OUT EVIL SPIRITS - TEACHER'S GUIDE**

### **MARK 5:1-20**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 1) Jesus saw a man who was being tormented by evil spirits.
- 2) God's enemy, the devil, has followers called evil spirits or demons.
- 3) The evil spirits who were bothering the man knew that Jesus was the Son of the Most High God. The demons said to Him, "Leave us alone!" Jesus had already told one of the demons to come away from the man.
- 4) However, there was more than one evil spirit tormenting this man. There were many. They begged Jesus to let them stay in the area. They did not want to leave. "Let us go be among those pigs," they said. For a large herd of pigs was on the nearby hill.
- 5) Jesus allowed the demons to go be among the pigs. The pigs were then so filled with fear that they ran down the hillside into a lake and drowned.
- 6) The men looking after the pigs ran into town and told everyone what happened. The people then asked Jesus to leave.
- 7) Jesus told the healed man to go back to his town and tell what the Lord had done for him, so that is what he did.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

- 1) What are demons, or evil spirits?
- 2) Where did the evil spirits ask Jesus to send them?
- 3) What happened to the pigs?
- 4) How did the town people react to what they saw?
- 5) What did the healed man do?

#### **ANSWERS:**

- 1) Demons, or evil spirits, are followers of the devil, God's enemy.
- 2) The evil spirits asked Jesus to send them to be among the pigs.
- 3) The pigs were so filled with fear that they ran down the hillside into a lake and drowned.
- 4) The people from the town asked Jesus to leave their area.
- 5) The healed man went back to his town and told everyone what the Lord had done for him.