

WHO DO YOU SAY HE IS?



Who Do You Say He Is?
Mark 5:1–20

"Who do you say that I am?" This is the question that Jesus asked his disciple, Peter? And this is the question people asked throughout Jesus' earthly life. From his teachings to his healings and to the miracles he performed, people wrestled with the identity of Jesus. The Gospel of Mark was written to answer just this question—Who do you say Jesus is? And this question is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago when Jesus asked it of Peter? In our journey through the Gospel of Mark we will study the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus and ask ourselves, "Who do you say he is?"

Don't underestimate Jesus.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Mark 5:1–20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. **2** And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. **3** He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, **4** for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength 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** And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. **7** And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” **8** For he was saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” **9** And Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” **10** And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. **11** Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, **12** and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” **13** So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

14 The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. **15** And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. **16** And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. **17** And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. **18** As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. **19** And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” **20** And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

- Last week the disciples were in a despairing situation on the sea. This week we encounter another despairing situation. How was the demoniac’s situation desperate?
- This man was demon-possessed. In today’s culture, we either don’t believe demon possession is real or we are too fascinated with the demonic. According to the Gospels, how should we understand demon possession?
- The apostle Paul tells us the demonic is very real. Look at Ephesians 6:10–20 and discuss how what Paul says aligns with what Jesus experiences in the Gospel of Mark.

- How does the demon respond to Jesus when he sees Jesus? What does this tell us about Jesus?
- What is the significance of names in Scripture? Why is there power in the name of Jesus?
- Since there is power in the name of Jesus, how should we use the name of Jesus, especially in despairing situations?
- Jesus won't let the man come with him! How would this make you feel? Why do you think Jesus tells this man no?
- In the beginning of Mark's Gospel, Jesus tells people to keep silent about him (e.g., Mark 1:43–44). Here it's different. Jesus tells the once-possessed man to “go home to your own people, and report to them how much the Lord has done for you.” Why does Jesus now want people to tell others about him?
- As you reflect on what Jesus has done for this man, what has Jesus done for you?
- As you think about what Jesus has done for you, how does it make you feel?
- Jesus tells the man to “go home to your own people.” Who are “your own people” that God has put in your life to share Jesus with? What can you tell your own people about Jesus?