

# MARK

Mark Wk 15  
Mk. 5:1-20

## General:

- Pastor Chip compared sin to an old Porsche that looked beautiful on the outside but had become corroded from the inside out. In what ways does sin slowly erode our lives, even when everything appears fine on the surface?
- Jesus intentionally crosses into Gentile territory. What does His willingness to enter an unclean and unlikely place reveal about His mission?
- The disciples never seem to leave the boat. Are there places, people, or situations where you're more likely to stay in the "boat" than step into the brokenness around you? What holds you back?
- Pastor Chip pointed out that many of this man's experiences foreshadow the suffering Jesus Himself would later endure. What does that reveal about Jesus' willingness to enter into our brokenness rather than remain distant from it?
- The demoniac immediately recognizes Jesus' authority, while many people around Him still fail to understand who He is. Why do you think recognizing Jesus and following Him are not always the same thing?
- Pastor Chip pointed out that everyone is an evangelist; the question is simply what we are proclaiming. What message does your life most naturally communicate to others?
- After witnessing the miracle, the townspeople beg Jesus to leave, while the restored man begs to go with Him. Why do you think their responses are so different?

**Take Home 1:** Notice there are three large ideas we are confronted with in this passage: Dehumanization, fragmentation, and restoration.

- Pastor Chip said: "Evil doesn't merely make us 'bad,' makes us less human." Where have you seen sin distort or diminish the person God created you (or someone else) to be?
- In what ways do fear, bitterness, pride, sin, brokenness, etc. have the power to fragment a person's identity or relationships?
- Pastor Chip emphasized that our identity comes not from within ourselves but from our Creator. Where are you most tempted to look for identity apart from God?
- In verse 15, we see the man restored (sitting there, clothed, and in his right mind). When you need healing, wholeness, or restoration, where do you instinctively turn first? What does that reveal?

**Take Home 2:** We cannot miss the obvious implications in this passage of the empire

- Pastor Chip described the values of empire as power, individualism, and strength. Where do you see those values shaping our culture? ...And perhaps even influencing the church?
- If every person is created in God's image, how should that change the way we view and treat the people around us, especially those who are difficult, different, or overlooked?
- Do you ever find yourself measuring your worth (or someone else's) by productivity, success, influence, or usefulness? How does the gospel challenge that mindset?
- Pastor Chip made the connection of pharaoh and the things of the roman empire as drowning in the sea (Mk. 5:13b). What does this teach us about the kind of kingdom Jesus came to establish?

**Take Home 3:** We must stay on mission (Mk. 5:18-19)

- Pastor Chip called this man the first missionary to the Decapolis. What opportunities has God already placed in front of you to simply tell others what He has done in your life?
- How has your own story of God's grace shaped the way you talk about Jesus with others?
- What makes sharing your testimony or talking about your faith feel difficult at times?
- What would it look like this week to faithfully live as an intentional neighbor, sharing Christ not only with your words but also through the way you love and serve others?