

OVERVIEW

In Mark 5, we encounter three very different people—a man living in a graveyard, a woman suffering from a long-term illness, and a 12-year-old girl who had died. Each of them represents hopelessness: the man is bound and isolated, the woman is unclean and cut off, and the girl is lifeless. Yet when Jesus steps in, everything changes. The man is freed and restored, the woman is healed and welcomed back into community, and the girl is raised to life. Together, these stories reveal that death does not have the last word, that Jesus restores what feels unclean or lost, and that our greatest problem is not our circumstances but the condition of our hearts. The invitation is to practice discernment by recognizing our need for Him, to make a decision to choose Jesus over compromise, and to live as disciples who walk in obedience and trust. At the heart of it all is this truth: Jesus is looking for you—not to condemn, but to bring life, healing, and hope. Don't be afraid; just believe.

KEY POINTS

1. Three Stories Meant to Be Read Together

- The Man in the Graveyard (Mark 5:1–20)
 - Living among the tombs, hopeless, isolated, bound.
 - Yet when Jesus arrives, he runs to Him. Jesus frees him and gives him a testimony.
- The Woman with the Issue of Blood (Mark 5:25–34)
 - On the Jewish side of the lake, isolated and unclean.
 - She reaches for Jesus, touches His garment, and is healed.
 - She follows Jesus and publicly shares her story.
- The 12-Year-Old Girl (Mark 5:35–43)
 - Dead, beyond hope in human eyes.
 - Jesus says: *“Don't be afraid, just believe.”*
 - He walks into the room, speaks life, and raises her up.

2. Key Themes

- Death does not have the last word.
 - Don't live in fear that the dead things in your life will define you.
- Unclean → made clean.
 - Each person was considered untouchable and isolated.
 - Jesus enters their story, removes shame, and restores belonging.
- Our real problem is not politics, but people's hearts, heads, and souls.
 - Jesus has the power to change from the inside out.

3. Four Words for Reflection

1. Discernment (About Yourself)
 - Do you have a “graveyard mentality”? Are you living as if your future is dead? Do you feel stuck, lifeless, hopeless?
 - Remember: Jesus is looking for you — not to condemn, but to surprise you with grace.
2. Discernment (About Jesus)
 - The man in the graveyard ran to Jesus.
 - Something in him knew: to encounter Jesus is to encounter God.

- Prayer of sinner and saint: *"I gotta get to Him."*
- 3. Decision
 - Make a choice. ([Rev. 3:16](#) — "Because you are lukewarm...")
 - Discipleship is a process, but it requires commitment.
 - Stop negotiating with evil. Sin always takes more than it gives.
 - The crowd asked Jesus to leave because He changes things — are we willing to let Him change us?
- 4. Discipleship (Obedience & Trust)
 - Some people in your life may be resistant — keep praying for them.
 - Don't give up on them because Jesus hasn't given up.
 - Don't manipulate or try to fix people — bring them to Jesus.
 - True discipleship is trust and obedience.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Which of the three people in Mark 5 (the man in the graveyard, the woman with the illness, or the young girl) do you relate to most in this season of life, and why?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - What do these stories teach us about Jesus' authority over sin, shame, and even death, and how does that shape the way we see Him today?
- 3) **DO** - This week, where can you take a step of faith to "just believe" — whether that means bringing your own need to Jesus or pointing someone else toward Him?