

**From Mad-Man to Missionary**  
**Mark 5:1-20**

Gary Frost, pastor in NY, whom we worked with at Rykers Island prison.. told us a fascinating story about working in Nairobi, Kenya. Gary has a compassionate heart for orphans; he himself has served as a foster parent for 48 children!... humble, encouraging man.

In Nairobi, there was a fence that kept people from the streets out of the church, which was necessary because people were stealing things from the church. All these little street kids were coming to the fence, and he noticed that a bunch of them had scarred lines down their chest. .. the pastor told him that these kids were from the streets. Locals called them “Glue heads” because they were sniffing glue (local shoe factory), getting high. The glue would drip down their chest... hopelessness, lostness, sadness; outcasts.

Gary shared the Gospel with these kids through the fence & said five of them received Christ. He said to us, “you never know how that will turn out, you know. Was it real?” ... continued send resources doing ministry here...

He later had a friend who went over there 5 years later and said, hey this young man Daniel Maina wants to talk to you. (Daniel was one of the five kids who received Christ earlier at the fence). One of the glue heads. “He’s now the Youth Minister of the church!” And he’s the top of his class in this school of technology. Gary said, “Imagine that, the glue head, is now the head of his class and the youth minister in the church. Totally transformed by Jesus.”

Jesus can take glue heads and turn them into gospel heralds; or smelly fishermen into spiritual leaders; demoniac (mad man) into to a missionary. ..

Here, Jesus is ministering on the other side of the tracks... the other side of the fence... The title could be “Break on through to the Other Side.”

**Big Idea:** When you become a Christian, you become a missionary because to be a Christian is to be a little Christ -

and Christ was a missionary. "As the Father sent me, so I send you" (Jn 20). At IDC, we say this to new members...

In today's text, we see that **the scariest dude** in the Bible becomes a missionary by **Jesus' mercy**. (We are only Jesus missionaries because of Jesus' mercy). While you may not think you were as radically messed up as this guy, **we do identify with him**. We need Jesus to change us, and to give us a mission. And that's what I want you to see – "**changed people are sent people**." **READ**

**Jesus is breaking into Gentile territory, the Decapolis** – ten Roman cities. Israel was supposed to be a light to the nations, yet they refused to even associate with them.

In many ways, this was like a short-term mission trip. You could look at Jesus' ministry like that; village to village, town to town, preaching the good news, and caring for people.

*I want to remind you today of the life-changing power of Jesus Christ. Like this mad-man, Jesus has changed **our identity**. Like this changed man, **we are sent to the nations**. **We are sent to the places and the people that some would rather not touch**.*

### Purposes of Mark

1. To **encourage** the Suffering (Roman) Christians, predominately Gentiles. "**wild beasts**"
2. To **equip** believers for discipleship (ch. 8-10)
3. To **evangelize** the world - Mark 10:45
  - The Gospel demands a response, "repent and believe"

### This Unit: Mark 4:35-6:6 – Power of Jesus on Display

What is your greatest fear?

- Jesus is Lord *over them all*. These four are arguably the greatest human fears:
- natural forces (4:35-ff)
- demonic forces (5:1-20);
- physical sickness (5:21-34) ... Spent all money
- physical death (35-43).... Previews of coming kingdom

Be Astonished

The appropriate response is belief and awe!

**5:20...Mark 1:27; 2:12; 4:41; 5:42; 6:51; 7:37; 11:18; 16:8 - 6:6: "he marveled" - Who is doing the marveling today?**

The German poet, Rilke, went to a museum and saw the statue of Apollo, and he was dazzled by it. When he went home, he wrote in his diary, "I must change my life." He didn't say, what a great piece of art, or what a great aesthetic experience (though it was). He used the same phrase in a poem that he wrote. "You must change your life." (Keller)

Why is that? Because Rilke wrote what we've experienced. *That is, anything that moves you, anything that touches you, astonishes you, anything that affects you at your center, tells you that you are a shadow of what you out to be.*

We all want to change. The question is, "**how?**" The answer is in this story.... Case Study

### Interview with a Demon-Possessed Man

(Tell us what you were like?)

#### #1: "I Was a Madman." (1-5)

##### A. He was Unclean (1-2). element of uncleanness

- Unclean Spirit
- Unclean Residence (among cemetery). *Even in his life he consigned himself to death.*
- Unclean Territory (Garsenes, v. 1)
- Unclean Occupations (pigs) "None may rear swine anywhere" (Mishna). They may have been supplying pork to the Romans, which made it even worse.

##### B. He was Untamable (3b-4)

- No one could bind him
- "any longer" – it implies digression
- "no one could subdue him" – like a ferocious animal

##### C. He was in Unceasing Anguish (5)

- Crying Out ... Cutting himself with stones

V15 calls him a "demon possessed man." .. "demonized."

i. **Do you actually believe in Demons? Isn't that primitive?**  
*Didn't people in Jesus' day just attribute all emotional and psychological problems to the realm of the demonic?*

I can see how you would think that, but “No.” If anything the biblical writers are more complex than modern man.

Notice **Matt. 4:24** – notice all the categories

- Sick
- Afflicted w/various diseases and pains
- Those oppressed by demons
- Epileptics ( “lunatics” or “those having seizers”)
- Paralytics

Richard Baxter, **The Cure of Melancholy and Overmuch Sorrow, by Faith.** Basically, it was a sermon on Depression

- **Physiological** – so you need rest, nutrition, exercise
- **Moral**, caused by guilt and shame// you need confession
- **Mental/Psychological**, caused by discouragement// you need love, support, community
- **Evil/Demonic** – you need prayer and Word of God

Today, people will do the simplistic thing and reduce man to one thing: (1) take a pill, (2) get exercise (body), get in a group, (4) or everything is the devil.

See two things: (1) that we are complicated individuals; and (2) there is something that is in the realm of the demonic.

ii. **Isn't this demonized man an *extreme* case? Aren't we way different?**

- “I had some bad chili the other night, but I'm not like this guy.”

The difference is in *quantity*, but not *quality*. Satan can have influence in your life too.

- **Eph. 4:26-27:** “Be angry and do not sin, and give no opportunity to the devil” *Bitterness*” – *the devil*
- **1 Tim 3:6-7:** “Puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil .... Snare of the devil”
- **James 3:15-16:** “bitter jealousy, selfish ambition is wisdom from below that is unspiritual and demonic”
- **1 Tim 4:** false teaching as “the teaching of demons”

Don't say “I'm glad I'm not like that man.” See “I'm like that man – not just like – but like him” and I need Jesus and his

power. Ephesians 6 says, for the Christian, be strong in the Lord... "schemes of the devil."

(So you were a mad-man; what happened next?)

## 2. "I Met the God-man." (6-13)

**"He fell down" (6)**

**"Most High God" (7)** – to Jews "Most High God" refers to God's transcendence over all rival gods" (Erhman is wrong about Synoptics). "For the Lord, the Most High God is to be Feared, a great King over all the earth" (Ps 47:2)

To Gentiles, "Son of the Most High God" instead of "son of God" (a typical expression of Gentile polytheism), designating Jesus as the Son of the one true God transcendent over all others" – In other words, it emphasizes Jesus position and his universal power over all.

**"Come out of him" (8) - just as he speaks to storm**

Notice, there is no long convoluted formulas, spells, or incantations... Jesus just says the word.

Every exorcism in pagan mysticism evokes a higher power. Jesus is the only one who doesn't evoke a higher power, because he is the higher power! Interestingly, the demoniac tries to do a saying, "I adjure you by God" –

**"My name is legion" Message: "Mob – a rioting Mob" (9)**

**What is up with the pigs? (10-13)** – my boys favorite story – James killed a pig! "It's in park!" Papa, scarry – not going outside... holding his piggy bank.

**This is the first recorded case of deviled ham!**

Everyone has a theory on the pigs. The only honest consensus is "we aren't sure."

Some think this was made up. But I don't think it was for the simple reason is it is so strange, and it doesn't benefit Mark's story, and there's nothing like this elsewhere.

### What could it mean?

- 1) He could be giving us a vivid picture of the casting out of demons, like the scapegoat that represented the freedom of sin. Jesus wanted there to be no doubt that people understood that this man was delivered.
- (2) He could be showing the destructive nature of sin and evil.
- (3) A foreshadowing of what he will one day do with Satan and demons and evil, throw them into the lake of fire.

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### What we shouldn't miss (13, 17). 3 Things:

- i. It upset the economy! That's a lot of money. This is sort of like Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19). First awe, and then anger.
- ii. *All the worth in the world is not worth the price of a human soul.*

Title: Gadara, A.D. 31

Author: John Oxenham 1852-1941

Rabbi, begone! Thy powers

Bring loss to us and ours.

Our ways are not as Thine

Thou lovest men, we--swine.

Oh, get you hence, Omnipotence,

And take this fool of Thine!

His soul? What care we for his soul?

What good to us that Thou hast made him whole,

Since we have lost our swine?

- iii. *You have no idea what will happen next, after you are changed by Jesus. **Jesus is surprising!** "I was changed, and then 2,000 pigs just went and jumped in the water!"*

- *Paralyzed Man* - "it's my legs; it's your sin"
- *Levi*: All I know is I used to be a crook, uninterested in God, and then Jesus changed me, and now I'm writing a Gospel!
- *Paul. Terrorist to Evangelist*
- *Me*: I was walking in darkness; I had no interest in God, and now I'm a pastor ... now I'm the father to five ex-orphan

If you are Christian, you have some "pig story."

(so you were a mad-man, then you met the God-man...)

### 3. "I Became a New Man" (14-18)

**“I was in my right mind, fully clothed” (15). He is fully restored**

*The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.* There’s a boy named Eustace, and everybody hates him and he hates everybody. He’s selfish, he’s mean, and nobody can get along with him. But he finds himself magically on a boat, the *Dawn Treader*, taking a great voyage. At one point this boat pulls into an island, and Eustace wanders off and finds a cave. The cave proves to be filled with diamonds and rubies and gold. He thinks, “I’m rich!” And immediately, because he is who he is, he thinks that now he’ll be able to pay everyone back. Eustace then falls asleep on the pile of treasure – which he doesn’t yet know is the hoard of the dragon. And because he falls asleep with *greedy devilish thoughts* in his heart, when he wakes up, he’s become the dragon – big, terrible, and ugly. **Soon he realizes there’s no way out. He can’t go on the boat, he’s going to be left on the island alone, he’s going to be horrible all his life. He falls into despair.** One day the great lion Aslan shows up, leads him to a clear pool of water, and tells him to **undress and jump in**. And suddenly Eustace realizes the **“undress” means “take off the dragon skin.”** He begins to gnaw and claw off the scales, and he realizes that he can shed his skin. Working at it, he finally peels off this skin – but to his dismay, he finds that underneath he’s got another dragon skin. He tries a second time and a third time, to no avail; the same thing will happen each time. **Then** Aslan begins to claw him and take off the skin; it was painful but he was eventually un-dragoned and thrown into the water... **“Then I turned into a boy again”**  
Picture: **We can't save ourselves. Only Aslan can un-dragoon us, and put us in our right mind.**

**What does that mean?**

- **Whole.** Free from bondage... Demonic temptations. Did he have a family?
- **At Peace.** Free from needless anxiety.
- **Right with God.** Is it well w your soul?
- **Serving God w a "clean conscious"** (2 Tim).. How Paul? Jesus... Demon man could say, "turn your eyes on Jesus.
- **How about you?**

**“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”**

**“I wanted to be with Jesus” (18).** This is the vocabulary of discipleship (3:14) not: "I have to serve Jesus; I get too; I want too."

- Cymbals preaching on this ... Being with him in his room... He tells him “no”... Have you ever had a prayer turned down? Jesus has something else for him to do.

#### **4. “Now I’m a Sent Man” (19-20)**

**“I became a missionary” .... (19)** “Go tell your friends, how much the Lord has done for you” The first missionary sent out was a demoniac! From mad-man to missionary ...

Jesus wanted this new man to be his witness in the Decapolis. This is not like Jesus’ call for secrecy in other cases (see 1:44; 5:43; 9:9). Why does he tell him to proclaim? Probably because Jewish and Gentile people in the Decapolis “did not yet pose the same danger of misunderstanding Jesus as a political or military messiah, as was the case in Galilee” (ESVSB).

Notice also that that the relationship between “Lord” in 5:19 is described as the work of “Jesus” in v. 20. This shows the deity of Jesus.

**Go tell home and tell your friends...**

Maybe he wanted to do something spectacular... Jesus said "go talk to your friends."

Augustine: "if you want to do great things begin with little ones."

"As the father has sent me (to the other side) so I send you -  
**John 20:21**

**Back to Last Week's Emphasis - Frangelism**

Everybody is on mission in the church. Everybody is to go and tell his or her friends about the mercy of Jesus. We looked at this last week...



We don't have a "missions department" because the whole church is on mission. "A church with a missions department is like the Braves having a baseball department."

"Evangelism is not red rover; it's hide and seek"

Go Tell Your Friends! Make friends. Be genuine, loving, and talk about how much the Lord has done for you.

- Facebook, Twitter, At school, at work, at lunch, on the phone, Tell them how he had mercy on you!
- It takes **six times**...
- *Invite neighbors for dessert. .*
- *Go for walks in the neighborhood.*
- *Watch for needs you can meet.*
- *Start an investigative Bible study.*
- *Read some simple books on basic Christianity and buy some extras to give out.*
- *Play racquetball at the Y.*
- *Eat lunch with people...*
- *Do some volunteer work in the community..*

Be light to the darkness not light to the light.

**Gentile Mission is Just Beginning here and it continues through God's people...**

"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news." Jesus is the Savior to the Nations.

This passage makes me think of other parts of the PEACE Plan

- Evangelize the World – Go tell your friends
- Aid the Poor and the Sick – Jesus is here aiding a man in need, an outcast.
- Care for the Orphan and the Oppressed – Here is a man in chains, and is freed by Jesus.

**This passage makes us think ahead to the cross... where the life-changing power, mercy, what he did for us, was on full display**

**You see, ultimately Jesus traded places with the demomiac!**

- **He wiped out evil, without wiping us out.**
- ***Do you see him doing that for you?***
  - **Jesus was crying out with a loud voice**
  - **Jesus was naked & abandoned**
  - **Jesus bore our sin, our uncleanness**
  - **Jesus was blood soaked**
  - **Jesus was driven into *the* tomb**

**And we continue to marvel, at his mercy...**

- **He's mighty to calm the storm**
- **He's mighty to deliver the demons**
- **He's mighty to heal the sickness**
- **He's mighty to save**

**Do you want to embrace him today?**

**Do you have some outcasts who need to hear the hope of the Gospel?**