

JESUS' AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS

INTRODUCTION:

In the first four chapters of Mark Jesus has clearly demonstrated that He is who He claimed to be, the promised Messiah, the Son of God. This was illustrated for us as Jesus stilled the storm with just a simple command, a power that only the Creator of the universe possesses. His claims were also authenticated by the miracles He performed, and the authority He displayed in casting out demons.

As we enter into chapter five this morning, we come to an encounter with demons that is the most dramatic that we have yet seen. Jesus again uses His sovereign authority as the Son of God to confront and cast out these demons. We are going to look first at the devastation of demons, then the dominance of Jesus over the demons, and finally the dread of those who live in that area.

I. THE DEVASTATION OF DEMONS (Mark 5:1-7)

- a. After an exhausting and exhilarating night on the Sea of Galilee for Jesus' disciples, as morning dawns their boats arrive at the shore on the _____ side of the lake.
- b. No doubt the disciples were still processing all of this when they beached their _____ the next morning on the other side of the sea.
- c. The disciples likely thought that they had traveled to this remote, mostly _____ area for some relief from the crowds and a chance to rest.
- d. The man is described as having an unclean _____ which simply put means that he was demon-possessed.
- e. Mark then describes for us this demon-possessed man by first telling us that the man had his dwelling among the _____.
- f. Mark goes on to tell us that this man was recognized as a threat and the local authorities had tried to repeatedly _____ him, but it had been unsuccessful.
- g. But waiting on the _____ this time was the Son of God.
- h. The demons addressed Jesus through the man's _____.

II. THE DOMINANCE OF JESUS (Mark 5:8-16)

- a. These demons were fully aware that they could not _____ the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. After giving this name to Jesus, the spokesman for them continues and began to beg the Lord not to _____ them out of the country.
- c. Jesus did not have to grant them their _____, He could have sent them immediately to the abyss.
- d. Mark records that with the permission granted these demons did not hesitate to _____.
- e. Some people have wondered why Jesus would _____ so many animals to be killed in such a dramatic fashion.
- f. Those who were _____ the pigs were no doubt shocked when suddenly the herd stampeded down the hill and plunged into the lake.

III. THE DREAD OF THE PEOPLE (Mark 5:15-20)

- a. You might imagine that seeing the total _____ of this former demon-possessed man that the people's response might be one of relief, gratitude, and even worship.
- b. Instead of producing a _____ in that Gentile region, the response of the people was immediate rejection.
- c. As they were beginning to get back in the boats and push them out into the water, the man who Jesus had delivered implored Jesus that he might _____ with him.
- d. It is understandable that he wanted to go with Jesus, but Mark tells us that this man did exactly what Jesus _____ him to do.

CONCLUSION:

Two observations about this passage of Scripture. First, this event like the event of the storm on the Sea of Galilee is to highlight for us the divine authority of Jesus Christ. As God the Son incarnate, He rules over both the natural and the spiritual realms. Second, this event teaches an important truth about the requirements necessary for being a faithful witness. The man was given the simple responsibility of relating the wonder of his salvation to others. That same responsibility is shared by all who belong to the Lord Jesus.