JESUS HEALS A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

Mark 5:1-20 Lesson 8

Key Verse 5:9a,19

1. What had just happened to Jesus and his disciples? (4:35-41) Why do you think Jesus chose to travel to the Gerasenes? (4:35) What happened when he got out of the boat? (2b) How was this not what they had expected?

2. Look at verses 3-5. Why do you think people had tried to bind this man? What can we learn in these verses about the power and nature of evil spirits, and how do you think this man had come to live such a life?

3. Look at verses 6-8. What shows the man’s split personality? What did he know about Jesus? What did he say to Jesus, and why? What had Jesus said to him, and why? What can we learn here about why people become so tormented? About Jesus?

4. Read verse 9a. Why was this an unusual thing for Jesus to say to him? How would this question help the man? In what sense is Jesus still asking this question to us, and how does it help us? What can we learn from Jesus here about how to minister to troubled people?

5. What was the response? (9b) What did a “legion” represent? How was this response tragic and fatalistic? What else did he do, and why? (10) Look at verses 11-12. Why were the demons begging, and why to enter the pigs? Look at verse 13. What can we learn here about the cost of healing this man? About Jesus?

6. Look at verses 14-17. How did the pig herders react to this event, and why? How did the townspeople respond to Jesus and to the healed man, and why? Why was this large herd of pigs so valuable to them, and why did Jesus consider even this one man more valuable?

7. Look at verse 18. Why did the healed man beg to go with Jesus? How did Jesus help him? (Read verse 19). Why did he give him this direction? How did the man respond? (20) What was the “Decapolis”? Why are the words “how much” repeated? (19,20) How did the people respond to this man’s story, and what can we learn here?