



OPEN

This week we conclude our Lives Changed by Jesus series by examining the story of a man who is in a situation that we would call impossible. This man could arguably be considered the most tortured person that we read about in the pages of scripture. This is a man who possessed not by one demon but a legion of demons who terrorized him day and night. As we read about his condition, we learn that humanly speaking this man is beyond help and beyond hope until he meets Jesus and is changed forever. Additionally this story serves as a declaration that Jesus is the Son of the Most High God, whose authority knows no limits.

REFLECT

- Mark provides several details that describe the condition of the demon possessed man. Read 5:1-5. What do these details tell us about him?
- In verse 2 the phrase “evil Spirit” is better understood as an “unclean Spirit”. This man was unclean in 4 different ways. This man was possessed by an unclean Spirit, living in an unclean place (tombs and pigs), and among an unclean people. Jesus brings the gospel to this Gentile region. What does this teach you about Jesus and his mission.
- Two major themes in Mark’s gospel is the *identity* and *authority* of Jesus. How does this story declare and demonstrate the identity and authority of Jesus?

DISCUSS

- This story of Jesus silencing the demons is linked to the previous story where Jesus silences the storm (4:35-41). In both encounters those who witness his authority are left in awe, wonder, and fear. When is the last time you have been left in awe and wonder at Jesus?
- Jesus’ authority brings order where there is chaos. Jesus calms the storm and the powers of hell with simply a word. What areas of your life do you need to experience the calming peace and presence of Christ?
- The healed man wants to stay with Jesus but Jesus sends him home (18-20). Discipleship looks different to every person. Some people are called to new places where some people are called to remain in the same places but both cases are called to reflect Jesus to those God put in your life. What does it look like for you to be faithful to those God has sent you to in your life?

APPLY

- Jesus places more value on the demon possessed man than on the pigs. Even in his condition he is still an image bearer of God. Who in your life do you need to extend the love of Jesus to and view as an image bearer? What could you do to show them their value in God?
- ***“If we are busy hating that soul that God loves and is in the process of straightening out, we cannot help others.”*** What do you think this quote? How do you need to remember that you are a soul that God loves so you can love others?

PRAY

- How do you need to experience the unmatched authority of Jesus in your life? Pray for that.
- As we wrap up this series how do you want Jesus to change your life? What is standing in the way of that?
- Pray for each member of your group.