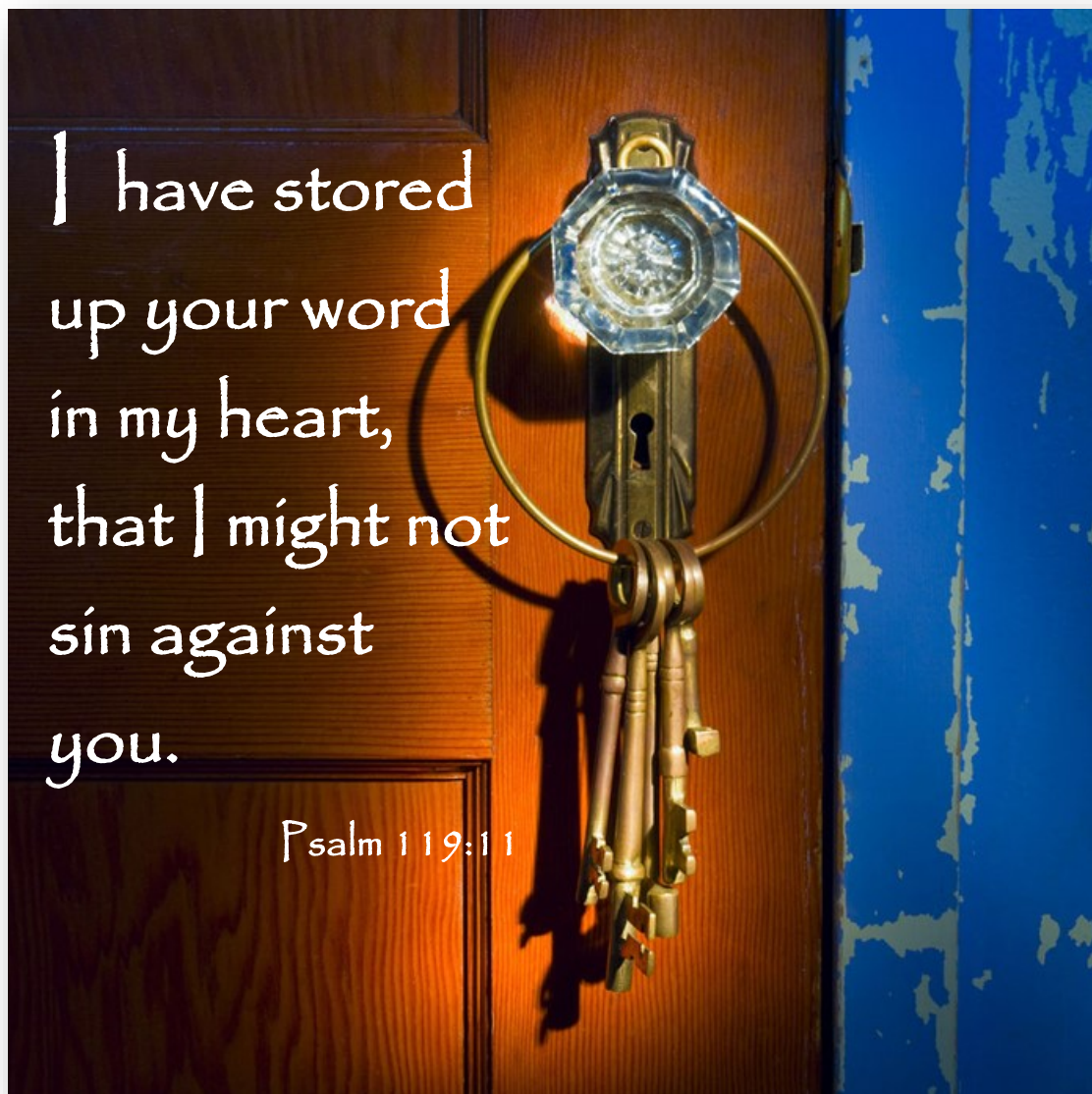


UNLOCKING THE WORD



THE GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY GUIDE

Chapter 5



CHAPTER 5

WEEK 1

Chapter 5:1-43

Three Outcasts & the Power, Pity and Person of Christ

WEEK 2

Ch 5:1-20

Tale of Two Kingdoms

WEEK 3

Ch 5:1-20

The Gift of Forgiveness

WEEK 4

Ch 5:14-17

In the Grip of Fear

WEEK 5

Ch 5:18-20

What has the Lord done for you?

WEEK 6

Ch 5:21-43

The Gift of Faith

WEEK 7

Ch 5:39-43

Life and Death are in His Hand

A MEANS OF STUDY

THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF STUDY OVERVIEW TO HELP YOU STUDY SCRIPTURE. ALTHOUGH NOT EXHAUSTIVE, IT IS MEANT TO GUIDE YOU INTO KNOWING GOD'S WORD MORE DEEPLY.

When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, usual, ordinary, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context studied in the light of the related passages pertaining to fundamental truths indicate otherwise. Dr. David L. Cooper (1886-1965)

The very first task of Bible study is to observe, not to interpret or apply. The author's original intent is the main key to Bible interpretation. Just as God had a very specific reason for choosing each author, every author has purpose in what they write; seek this purpose. Example John 20:31. Try not to look at commentaries of a passage until you have taken the time to observe scripture on your own.

Consider that all of scripture is a love letter to us, and that God is not trying to hide what He has revealed in His written word. If able, buy a Bible with no helps or references and mark it up with your own notes. Above all, do not rely on one commentator or teacher. Most of us have not spent the time that these gifted individuals have invested in study, but that does not make them infallible.

The reason for a disciplined approach to Bible study is that if you know how you are studying, you can look back and see how you came to the conclusions that you did. A method allows you to evaluate (or reevaluate) your interpretation.

Basic Steps (not exhaustive)

OBSERVATION: Look for words or phrases that are repeated often. Attempt to break down passages according to the main ideas. (Remember English 101!) Make notes and charts of your observations. Resist the temptation to jump to interpretation or application before you have completed the observation phase. This is a fun stage in Bible study that will make you appreciate how God inspired the authors. See if you can determine the thought process the author is using, see the flow and transitions from one thought to the next. Look at key connective words like but, and, or, therefore, now, then.

Who... List the people mentioned. Look into what has happened to this person and if they are mentioned elsewhere.

What... has happened to cause the writer to write? What events have occurred and how are they related to what is being written? What cultural events and customs are in the passage that need to be understood that may be different from ours? God works with all cultures, throughout time. People are people after all, yet we do not all view things in the same way. Seek to understand how the intended readers would understand what the writer was saying to them.

Why... does the author use a word quite often? If he uses a word that is different, but similar to often repeated words, ask yourself why he does this. Why does he address certain people and not others?

A MEANS OF STUDY CONTINUED

When... is the text thought to have been written? When the author is writing? What was happening around the area?

Where... look at locations, and the historical information about these locations.

How... did things happen? How did the people in the Bible arrive where they are? How did God move in their lives to shape their life?

Word Studies. Many scholars have spent a lot of time doing this work, and they are valuable. These are of much help in understanding what the author is saying.

INTERPRETATION: *There is only one interpretation, but many applications. God inspired the authors to write exactly what he intended, so therefore there can be only one interpretation.* You have heard it said that there are so many interpretations, but this is not true. What they mean is that there are many ways to apply the scripture to life. This does not mean that you or I have arrived at that interpretation, but just as His Word will not return unto him void, it also has an intended purpose.

APPLICATION: First see the application the original readers would have probably applied to their lives. In that context apply similar application based on our current lives. *Remember we should not try to fit the Bible into our culture, but rather fit our culture, our lives into what our God is saying to us thru His Word.*

RESOURCES:

Books on Bible Study

Independent Bible Study. By Irving L. Jensen ISBN-13: 978-0802439819

Methodical Bible Study by Robert A. Traina ISBN-10: 9780310246022

Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation

Phone Apps

Bible Dictionary - an easy app to use, not too exhaustive like Strong's.

Bible Gateway

Bible Hub - Different Bibles, commentaries, sermons, Interlinear

Bible Map - search a passage for locations, and it shows you where it is on a map

Bible Study - from Grace Community they have it in Chinese as well

BLB - Blue Letter Bible

Logos Bible - (Faithlife) Very handy, has courses you can take, and a store as well.

Text comparison, audio, bible word study, and much more.

Moody Radio - Listen live to broadcasts.

Scofield Study Bible - has quizzes, reading plan, quotes etc.

Strong's Concordance

John MacArthur Study Bible - This is free, but they have resources you can buy.

Tecarta Bible - a ton of different Versions...however you must pay for them

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY ONE

THREE OUTCASTS & THE POWER, PITY, AND PERSON OF CHRIST

MARK 5:1-43

“THE MIRACLES IN FACT ARE A RETELLING IN SMALL LETTERS OF THE VERY SAME STORY WHICH IS WRITTEN ACROSS THE WHOLE WORLD IN LETTERS TOO LARGE FOR SOME OF US TO SEE.”

— C. S. LEWIS

Mark continues to portray to his Roman readers that this Jesus is grandeur, more powerful, more compassionate, than any Caesar of Rome, from Augustus, Tiberius, Gaius, Claudius, to Nero. Mark gives us this window into three outcast of culture with three distinct issues, mind, body, and soul. This points to his main focus and opening of his letter that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.

This should give us some direction, thought and application of what it means to be human, what it means to be made in the image of God. That the physical is connected to the spiritual and the spiritual to the physical. The fact that Jesus heals the mind, the body, and soul is explicit in worshiping Him properly, to love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Not only does Jesus have compassion, the power to correct the issue but in doing so He establishes what we were created for, worship.

Jesus gives us a window into life and life more abundant and free. While we see Jesus in his first incarnation the results are human flourishing under His lordship as Savior and King. This narrative is life when all is made right by Him as He rules with a rod of iron, Revelation 2:27, where no sin corruption will be allowed anywhere then what we see here in Mark 5 will be our experience as well. But until that day, Christians are called to live out heavenly kingdom principles here on earth, proclaiming the gospel just as it was in Mark's day.

One characteristic we should all be mindful of is that of Jesus' compassion through this whole chapter. Pity or mercy is the motivation for the actions taken to restore each of these people that day. Imagine that and then understand that you have been left here for a season of life to show that to those where you live, work, and play.

Textual Note:

This takes place on the eastside of the sea of Galilee near the small village of Gersa modern Khersa. From Matthew's account, Matthew 8:28-34, he records there were two demon possessed men. Mark and Luke don't say there was only one so we can assert that there were at least two with one being the spokesman in part from the name he gives himself, Legion.

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you've spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as seek I you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. Jesus displays His power as God over the enemy, pity for those who are hurting, demonstrating in His person as the Messiah.
2. The action and re-action of those who encounter Jesus.
3. Each person was unique in the issue Jesus dealt with, mind, body, spirit.

OBSERVATIONS:

Take your time and thoughtfully read Mark 5, Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-56. Record your observations, the characters, places mentioned, attitudes or emotions and questions you have.

OBSERVATIONS AND THOUGHTS

What does Mark say about the power and size of the demons who controlled this man?
What was their effect on him?

We can speculate how the demon knew who Jesus was especially from a distance. What is Jesus effect on the demon?

What does Jesus give the demon?

What was the response of the herdsmen who saw their 2000 pig investment bobbing in the water?

THREE OUTCASTS
MARK 5: 1-43

OBSERVATIONS

What was the response of the demon possessed man?

Who was Jarius and why is it significant that he even came to Jesus for help?

What was his motivation as a dad? What strong emotion does death bring? What does Jesus say to overcome that emotion?

What analogy does Jesus give to death?

What was her parents response?

How did the woman with the blood issue know to find Jesus? How long was she suffering physical pain?

Based on the disciples response to Jesus' question of "who touched me", why was the touch of this woman different?

THREE OUTCASTS

MARK 5: 1-43

INTERPRETATIONS:

Jesus' works to restore the mind, body, and soul. The ultimate work Jesus has done was at the cross. How does the redemptive work of Christ restore each part of our human make up: mind, body and soul?

Faith in only one name, Jesus Christ as the Son of God, saves. No one before or after Jesus has been able to repeat these miracles or has made the claim of being the Son of God. What are the responses today compared to then?

Those in Christ no longer have reason to fear sickness, disease, demons, tragedy or death. How should this allow the Christian to not live in fear? (Philippians 3:20-21)

THREE OUTCASTS
MARK 5: 1-43

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Jesus has power and authority over all things, including death. What are the implications of that truth in your life?

When Jesus did these miracles, amazement, wonder and awe was the response to His power. When was the last time you were amazed at the power of Christ in your life?

Consider "over all things", in your life. What area do you need Christ's power to show up in your life today?

Write any additional reflections, questions, or applications.

CLOSING PRAYER:

Write a prayer for Christ's power to show up in your life.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY TWO

TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS

MARK 5:1-13

YES SATAN WAS CREATED AS A MINISTERING SPIRIT TO THE LORD. BUT EVEN AFTER SATAN’S REBELLION, GOD THREW HIM OUT OF HEAVEN. GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD HIM ON A SHORT LEASH UNTIL THE DAY CAME WHEN JESUS CHRIST DESTROYED HIM AT THE CROSS

—PASTOR DALE

Jesus and the disciples had set out across the Sea of Galilee possibly to get away from the large crowds that were constantly pressing in on them. When they came to the other side they were in the land of the Gerasenes; a place made up of mainly Gentiles. Upon arriving instead of a restful, peaceful get away, they met a man under the influence of the demonic. Matthew records that there were two men, but Mark and Luke do not say that there was only one. Some people will try to point out the supposed contradiction saying the Bible is not reliable. One of the two demons was evidently the leader and spoke up.

Demons are fallen angels, divinely created spiritual beings created to minister to God. Lucifer, Satan, rebelled against God wanting to ascend the throne of God. One third were thrown out of the heavenly realm down to earth. See Revelation 12:4-9, Genesis 3, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Ephesians 6.

We don’t know the timing and it’s pure speculation, but it’s possible they were thrown out prior to the temptation in the Garden of Eden. Based on what Scripture says about Satan, 1 Peter 5:8, it’s not hard to believe Satan was ready to destroy what God had made rather than wasting his time wallowing in defeat.

The term “demon” comes from the Greek word which means, “a divinity, a deity”, see 1 Corinthians 10:20. Any deity other than the one true God is a spirit opposed to Him and therefore evil or demonic. Demons are not the same as Satan or devil or he is also referred to as the prince or ruler of the air and all the other demons are subject to him.

We get a very brief view of them in Scripture before they were conquered by Christ at the cross, Colossians 2:15. An example is from Daniel 10:13 whereby the prince of the kingdom of Persia, who hindered the archangel Gabriel from coming to Daniel, so much so that Michael, another archangel came to help.

Needless to say from our text, demons had a great deal of power over any human constraint and no one was able to control them. They roamed freely at all hours of the day or night constantly yelling and cutting themselves; creating fear in all who traveled that way, save one. Makes one wonder if Jesus heard the screams echoing across the sea that day.

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God's Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you've spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as seek I you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. **All about two kingdoms.** Contrast the character description of the demonic kingdom against God's kingdom.

The demonic—driven, restless, chained, naked, out of ones mind, homeless, jailed, alone, not in community, isolated from family, mercilessness, powerful, hurtful.

The heavenly—right minded, peaceful, clothed, rest, going home, in community, no longer alone or isolated, merciful, all powerful.

OBSERVATIONS:

Take your time and thoughtfully read Mark 5:1-13, Matthew 8:28-9:1 and Luke 8:26-40. Record any additional observations below that the Spirit has given you that you may have missed from last weeks study.

OBSERVATION: SEE ALSO MATTHEW 8:28, LUKE 8:26

VS.1

The country of Gerasenes refers to a small town opposite Tiberius in what is today, Khersa. There are ancient tombs there and a steep shoreline which descends into the water. This is Gentile country. Which begs the question: why was Jesus going there in light of His comments in Matthew 15:24-28?

VS.2

Tombs and caves were common homes for the demented of that day. It could have been possible that the two men were Jews. What does this say about the length Jesus would go to have pity and compassion for someone?

VS.3-5

What is the visible physical imagery that Mark gives the reader? Why would he want the reader to know this? Notice in vs 4 the dire point being made, "No one had the strength to subdue him." What other Biblical references correlate to that? See 1 Samuel 17:50

VS. 7-8

What do the demons know for certain about who Jesus is? Why do you think this is so significant?

"Son of the Most High God" is an ancient title used by Jews and Gentiles to clarify the living God from all other false gods. (See the following: Genesis 14:18-20, Numbers 24:16, Deuteronomy 32:8, Psalm 18:13, 21:7, Isaiah 14:14, Daniel 3:26, Luke 1:32, Hebrews 7:1, James 2:19.) According to 1 John 3:8, what was Jesus doing?

OBSERVATION: SEE ALSO MATTHEW 8:28, LUKE 8:26

VS. 7-8 cont.

Jesus immediately dealt with this demon commanding him to come out of the man. The phrase “adjure you” in a sense means to mind your own business. What is really taking place between Jesus and the demon, between the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness?

VS.9-10

Jesus commands the demon to identify itself. Why? Who was this information for? What do you think the purpose of this confession was? What does confession release in a person’s life and what is it meant to lead to? Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:8-10

To Mark’s Roman audience, “Legion” meant an army regiment of 6,000 soldiers. When the demon identified himself as Legion, what is the significance of the name and what did that suggest to the Roman audience?

Vs.11-13

Aside from 2000 pigs bobbing in the water and the mess and smell in the days to come, what is the key word in vs 12 of the posture of the demons? What is the key word that Jesus gives the demons in vs 13?

What impression do you think that interchange gave to those watching that the demons were begging and Jesus gave permission? Why would that be significant?

INTERPRETATIONS:

There are clearly two supernatural powers and kingdoms at work. How would you explain that to a largely secular culture who says they only believe in the natural or physical?

How would you explain to someone who asked you why there is evil in the world?

Each kingdom is actively seeking those who would serve. Read Romans 6:15-23. How does Paul categorize these two kingdoms? What is the common term Paul uses for serving in both kingdoms? What does each kingdom lead to? What benefit does Satan's kingdom offer and how does he hide the fact that his kingdom leads to death? What are the benefits of God's kingdom?

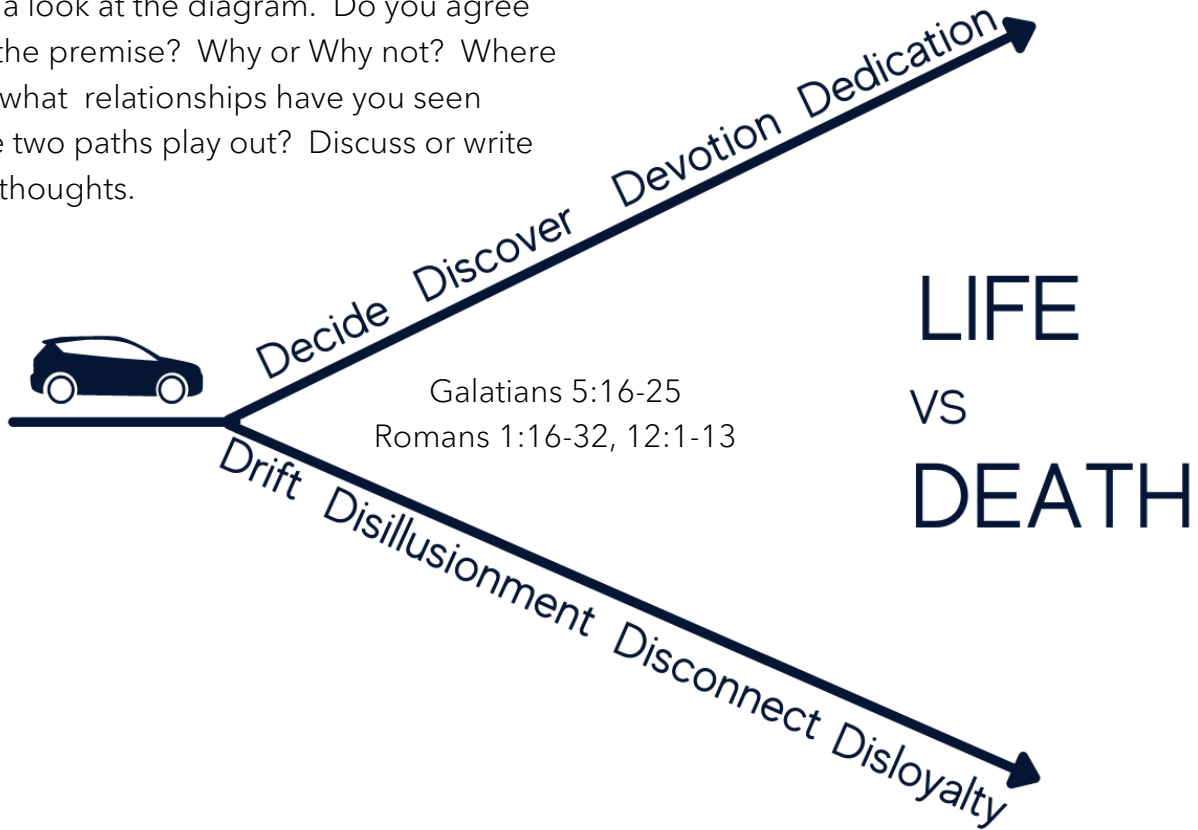
God's kingdom is over all. No other power, authority or entity that can supersede the Kingdom of God.

God is merciful. Jesus demonstrates his endless, eternal mercy. Read Matthew 5:7, Jude 22-23, Romans 9:15, Exodus 33:19. Mercy is the compelling message that Jesus communicates to those He met. What is this message?

TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS
MARK 5:1-13

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Take a look at the diagram. Do you agree with the premise? Why or Why not? Where or in what relationships have you seen these two paths play out? Discuss or write your thoughts.



Bible

Tradition

Experience

Reason

Emotion

INSIDE THE CAR

Who is in the drivers seat? No one is neutral and everyone has an authority they appeal to. What can happens when these passengers take up different seats?

Follow this link for an example of what this looks like in real life from both kingdoms.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.maz.combo3310>

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

How can you communicate the message of mercy?

Who are the societal outcasts, those who are avoided by society? How can we meet them in their circumstances?

Do you believe evil spirits exist and are active in the world today? Why or why not?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Ask the Lord for opportunities for gospel conversations and a heart to sow the gospel seeds liberally in your life. Write down a name of someone you know and begin praying that their heart would be receptive to that conversation.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY THREE

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

MARK 5:13-17

“FORGIVENESS IS CHRISTIANITY AT ITS HIGHEST LEVEL. IT REFLECTS GOD’S IMMENSE FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST, AND NO HUMAN EXPRESSION OF FORGIVENESS COULD EVER SURPASS WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US.”

—PASTOR JOHN MACARTHUR

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God’s Word to you and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you’ve spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as seek I you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. *The gift of forgiveness brings with it freedom from oppression.* Jesus came to bring forgiveness and in doing so He also brought healing to the whole person.
2. *Forgiveness has to do with the past.* We are not given the reason this man was in the situation he was. Jesus allows you to leave the pain in the past. Freedom comes from being willing to move forward so you don’t walk backwards in life.

OBSERVATIONS:

Forgiveness came to a man who for all intents and purposes was written off by society. In part because of an out of control life through supernatural evil forces dominating his life. How can we know forgiveness came to this man's life? See vs13, 15, 18.

Forgiveness requires that you name what is wrong, see vs 9. The first step of forgiveness is to acknowledge the wrong, not deny it doesn't exist. What is the result of forgiveness, vs 15,17?

Jesus gave this man's life back out of His great love and mercy. Why then do you think the people from the city asked Jesus to leave?

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS
MARK 5:13-17

INTERPRETATIONS:

Forgiveness is the cancellation of a debt. Consider for a moment what your options would be if it's not forgiveness?

Forgiveness has to do with the past. Jesus mission of forgiveness was accomplished at the cross so you could leave your pain in the past. What ways can you avoid "walking backwards" in life and continually revisiting your pain that Jesus has already forgiven?

Forgiveness will travel a long way. Consider for a moment where this man was in life. It seems fitting that Jesus was willing to venture into the tombs, symbolic of the results of unforgiveness. How far have you had to "venture" into someone's life to extend forgiveness? What were the results?

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Forgiveness is the cancelling of a debt. Matthew 18:21-35. We cannot undo the past but we can let go of it. How do you let go?

If God does not exist, and we are floating through space, how can you explain forgiveness?

Forgiveness has to do with the past or a past event in your life. How can you forgive yourself or others so you don't abuse today with something from the past?

Don't confuse forgiveness and trust. If forgiveness is for the past where and what is trust for? Past, present or future? Trust will ask: "is it safe to move forward?" How have you done this?

Unforgiveness keeps you or a relationship chained to the past, or like a pianist with an open sore on his finger who still tries to play. How can you forgive to break the chain and not transfer the hurt from the past to someone in the present or future?

Does your unforgiveness allow your relationship to have a tomorrow? How will you not allow it to be carried into the future? See Matthew 6:15 How can Jesus ask this of you?

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, like the demon possessed man. How far will Christ's forgiveness take you in order to give that same forgiveness to someone else? Who is that in your life?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, let me be ever mindful that you are working in me to bear much fruit. Help me keep my eyes on You and to always encourage others along the way as You bring them into my life. Give me the strength to carry out the work You have prepared for me to do during each season of my life. Humble me at all times so that I can be confident in pleasing You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY FOUR

IN THE GRIP OF FEAR

MARK 5:14-17

“FEARS IN LIFE ARE LIKE PROPERTY LINES, THEY ARE BOUNDARIES FOR YOUR HEART, MIND AND SOUL. WHAT YOU HAVE TO DETERMINE IS WHO IS THE ONE SETTING THEM, YOU, SOMEONE OR SOMETHING, ELSE OR GOD?”

—PASTOR DALE

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God’s Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you’ve spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the fears of life be swept away by your power bringing the peace that surpasses all worldly understanding. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. *A distinguishing mark of mature believers in Christ is that they fear God more than any other fear.* Jesus was relentless in His teaching about fear (worry, anxiety) that this life produces. His point was brief and clear: do not be fearful, do not worry, do not be anxious. That is possible because of the simple fact that God is real and He is responsible for ALL THINGS in a believers life. Satan will do all he can to tempt you into believing another false reality. Think of fear this way: F-feelings, E-erroneously, A-appearing, R-real. Fear has to do with loss or punishment. Jesus took all that for you, therefore there is nothing to fear.

IN THE GRIP OF FEAR
MARK 5:14-17

OBSERVATIONS:

Who are the characters in these three verses?

The guys responsible for this large herd of pigs told the people in the city and country. Assuming you had never seen anything like this before, how would you report what it you saw?

Today a pig's value will range from \$75 to \$150. If you were responsible for that kind of money would that "bend" your reporting in a particular direction? Why or why not?

When everyone came to the sight of dead pigs floating in the lake and Jesus, sitting down with the man now in his right mind, what was their response?

The demon's purpose was to control the humans they inhabited; Jesus' purpose was to give people freedom from sin and Satan's control. Why do you think they were afraid instead of celebrating what had happened to the man? Did this response possible come from how the herdsman reported what had happened?

OBSERVATIONS CONT :

We can't know how many people came to see what had happened but we can assume a herd of that size meant a large population. We can also assume humans are much the same like wanting to see where all the fire trucks are going to watch. How or why is it that so many begged Jesus to leave? What does this say about what people believe or want to believe?

INTERPRETATIONS:

There is a spiritual dimension to life. We are created in the image of God. God is a spirit, eternal, therefore we are more than just physical beings. There is more to this life than the material.

There is no power greater than Jesus Christ, he is God. Jesus commands the spiritual world, he is all authority, and therefore God.

Jesus is relational, personal, merciful. Consider that the creator of all things would sit with a man who moments earlier was totally in darkness. Sharing with him about the kingdom of God.

Fear is real and it manifests itself in either driving Christ away or drawing you nearer. Sinful fear will keep you in your sin driving you away from the very salvation you need. The fear of God will restore you to a right relationship with Him.

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

Fear is a major component of this section. The herdsmen and people were afraid of what had happened, a new experience. How does fear of the unknown effect you?

Your brain constructs mental maps of life. Where there is no fear is usually where you've been in life, some experience that you can reflect on, a map. When you get to the edges of your map you stare out into uncharted areas. These are things you've never done or experienced before. What is an assumption about being afraid that makes you not want to go there?

The herdsmen and towns people were afraid seeing floating pigs, the man in his right mind, and Jesus and in their fear made the assumption this must be hurtful or scary.

What other fears have you experienced and what assumption have you made to foster that fear? (Example: Fear of abandonment, loneliness, rejection. Loneliness can be a false fear because you're not really alone. You're only alone when fear isn't coupled with safety or support from others.)

Fear is real, there is not control switch in your mind to turn off and on not to be afraid. How can you feel comfortable with being uncomfortable knowing Jesus is with you? What does it say about your faith when fear cannot be overcome?

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

What has Christ brought you out of from you life before you came to your right mind and believed in him?

Boundaries are a good way to deal with fear. They are like property lines of your heart, mind, and soul. A good use of fear is to have godly fear, allowing God's word to help set those boundaries to be afraid of the right things. Make them to small and your afraid of most anything. To big and you open yourself up to getting hurt. You are the one who sets these boundaries and allows what is going to be on your property. So it's not the setting of boundaries that is the issue but the fear of setting them or not and to the right degree.

For example, setting a good godly goal for yourself. Sometimes it's what's inside that which makes it a hard thing to do in order to achieve the goal. Being afraid of failure or disapproval is the wrong fear. The right fear is to ask, "what if I don't do this?" A year from now I'll be in the same place. When the right fear is greater than the wrong fear, you'll move in that direction.

Take some time to examine your life and apply this. In the space below right down some good godly goals. What fear is getting in the way of you reaching them? How can you set good boundaries to achieve your goals?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, let me be ever mindful that You are with me always. Grant me the power to overcome fear and live life to it's fullest. Let the confidence of knowing your boundaries give me peace in my life and let that peace be evident to all who see you in me. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY FIVE

WHAT HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU?

MARK 5:18-20

“GO HOME TO YOUR FRIENDS AND TELL THEM HOW MUCH THE LORD
HAS DONE FOR YOU.”

—JESUS

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God’s Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words You’ve spoken from Your word. I want to hear what You have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, You sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as I seek you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. *God indeed has done something for you.* Are you clear on what that is, do you see it?
2. *Good friends to go home to.* Most would write someone like this man off completely.
3. *Long for God presences.* Does your heart desire Christ above all else? Does it seek the kingdom first?
4. *Christ is easy to share.* When you are clear on the mercy given to you that you don’t deserve, you want to share it.

OBSERVATIONS:

What drives a person to beg, to leave everything behind and follow someone you just met?

We are not told how long this man was in the condition he was in, but can presume based on what was done to him that it had to be quite some time. What might have been going through this man's mind that it would be better to go with Jesus?

What is the significance that Jesus tells this man to one, go home and two tell your friends?

See Mark 6:4 and Luke 7:43. To put yourself in this man's shoes, would it be easier to leave with Jesus and start a new life or go back and fight through any stereotype of the community that knows you? Why or why not?

Jesus repeatedly told those he healed not to tell others what he had done, Mark 1:44, 7:36, 8:30, 9:9. Yet this time he tells this man to go home and shout it from the roof tops, why?

WHAT HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU?
MARK 5:18-20

INTERPRETATIONS:

God is good, sovereign and proves Himself as such. Luke 18:19, James 1:17. Romans 9:15-16, Exodus 33:19. Jesus demonstrates the nature and character of God. That same sovereignty or authority has been given to Jesus, Matthew 28:18. Many will struggle with the doctrine of God being sovereign. Jeremiah and Paul address this, Jeremiah 18:1-10 and Romans 9:18-26. The alternative is that "man is good" and we know we proved that not to be true. What is the sticking point for us as the clay? How is it that the only way we could talk back to the potter is if he made us in the first place? What is the real issue? (Psalm 31:23)

God's goodness is seen in his friendship to sinners. See Proverbs 18:24, Mark 2:13-17, Matthew 11:27-28. Jesus can't help and will be of no help to people who don't know or won't admit they are sinners. Jesus met with sinners, he pursued them because he was the only one who can save them and they were the ones who needed a friend. Who are you befriending, pursuing where you live, work, and play?

Never giving up on someone. It's hard to imagine after what this man had done, the fear he instilled in those who traveled by and the negative reputation he had acquired that there would have been anyone left in his life who would support him. We have to keep in view that no sinner is beyond redemption. No one can out sin God's grace and mercy, so there is always hope for the darkened soul to come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Oh to have those kind of friends, better yet to be that kind of friend.

Sharing something joyful is easy. When someone does a merciful thing for you it's easy to share it with others. The great commission, Matthew 28:18-20, is Christ's declaration of his authority but it should be understood in light of his love for us, for what he has done for us, giving us the joy to go and tell what the Lord has done for you.

WHAT HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU?
MARK 5:18-20

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

What has God done for you? How has he shown you mercy? Can you define it and articulate it? Consider writing out your story of faith. What was life like before you came to Christ, what changed, and how have you seen him faithful in your new life in him.

What would the need in your life be to beg to have Jesus a part of your life? See Psalm 51

What do you think it takes to live a life of dependency in Christ? What has been your faith experience?

What are the character trait of a friend who would stand by someone who most would write off?

Decapolis was a region of ten cities this man went to. How willing are you to be inconvenienced "as you are going" according to the great commission, to pursue the sharing of God's mercy to you to others? What steps could you take to have the confidence? How can you help others with less confidence?

CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, grant me the words to speak the good news of Jesus Christ, speaking them with love, confidence and courage. Give me a heart for the lost, the compassion and patience I need to sow into their lives. Allow me to be used by you in this heavenly endeavor and see the joy of the fruit of a harvest. Amen.

THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY SIX

THE GIFT OF FAITH

MARK 5:21-43

“JESUS HAS THE POWER OVER THE PHYSICAL WORLD WITH THE SUSPENSION OF WEATHER AND OVER THE SPIRITUAL WORLD TO BRING FAITH. BOTH SPEAK TO HIS DEITY, BOTH BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD AND TO THE INDIVIDUAL.”

—PASTOR DALE

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God’s Word to you, and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you’ve spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as I seek you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

KEYS TO NOTICE

1. ***The storms of this life are a test of faith.*** A test is not for the teacher, but for the student, building confidence and showing whether faith is genuine or not. James 1:1-16
2. ***Jesus Christ the Son of God, is God.*** The power to suspend weather speaks to Christ’s deity and harkens back to the very creation of the world.
3. ***Fear is the opposite of Faith.*** Fear and faith are diametrically opposed and cannot co-exist. Jesus was resting, the disciples were in a panic.

JESUS CALMS TWO STORMS
MARK 4:35-41

OBSERVATIONS:

Jesus has been teaching all day. When you've worked hard in the day, what is your bodies natural desire?

Jesus is truly God and truly man. Why is this necessary and how does this doctrine reveal itself in our text? See Hebrews 4:15.

Do you think Jesus knew the storm was coming as they got in the boat? Why or why not?

Why do you think experienced fisherman were so rattled by this storm? Surely they had weathered storms like this before.

After all the time Jesus spent with the disciples and all they had been taught and seen, why the questions in vs.38?

Does Jesus care? How do you know?

OBSERVATIONS:

What is implied about Jesus that He has the power to calm the storm?

Do you think the disciples truly understood who Jesus was at this point based on their two questions in vs 38, 41?

What were they afraid of happening to them?

What is behind Jesus' question, "Why are you so afraid?"

What other observations do you see?

JESUS CALMS TWO STORMS

MARK 4:35-41

INTERPRETATIONS:

Jesus is God, the Son of God. Jesus once again displays His power over all creation, not only in the physical but also the spiritual. What impact does this have or should this have on the life of every believer?

Jesus rested practicing what He preached. Jesus rested. This is not the first time we see this in scripture. What does God do in creation? Why? What is the point of His rest after teaching about the kingdom?

Faith in Jesus drives out fear. Without faith in Christ the only thing you are left with is fear. When there is fear in the life of a Christian, who aren't you trusting in and why?

Faith will be tested. God's will is to test your faith so you can see it's genuineness, the test is not for Him my friend! This is how James says we can "count it all joy", ***not in going through something hard or unwanted in life but in what those tests of faith will do to mature you.*** How has your faith been tested?

Jesus cares. Like any good parent, tests or discipline will come. The motive of Christ's testing comes from the purity of His eternal love and care for you. How have you responded to faith testing?

JESUS CALMS TWO STORMS
MARK 4:35-41

APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY

The disciples underestimated who Jesus was. Do you? If so, how?

Jesus has the power to handle the storms in our lives. Who or what have you or do you typically turn to in a storm? Explain.

Read Luke 12:4-7, 11-12, 22-26, 29-31. Being Jesus' friends, vs 4, how are you to walk in faith? And how can you make sure you do?

Fear was just as much an issue then as it is now. Jesus command us not to fear. How do you apply this command to your life and the life of other believers?

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THE GOSPEL OF MARK
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING
A STUDY OF MARK 5
STUDY SEVEN

LIFE AND DEATH ARE IN HIS HAND

MARK 5:39-43

“WE ARE BORN INTO THIS WORLD WITH A TERMINAL DISEASE CALLED LIFE WHICH TERMINATES IN OUR DEATH. WE NEITHER KNOW WHEN OR HOW IT WILL COME, BUT THAT IT COMES, FOR ALL OF US.”

—PASTOR DALE

PREPARATION IN PRAYER

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BELONG. GROW. REACH.