

Week of Mar 10, 2019 — Focus: Mark 5:1-20

Introduction

Can anyone share an experience where Jesus came into a “dark corner” of your life and brought freedom? What was that like?

Scripture/Sermon Discussion

Re-read Mark 5:1-20 to refresh your memory.

- Now note the following two verses for context: Mark 4:35 and Mark 5:21. The passage in view today happens between these two “crossings”. Jesus left a good following of people to come to the “other side” where there was unclean people, animals and spirits.
 - What does this say about the purpose of Jesus trip to the other side?
- Last week the passage exemplified Jesus power over nature (see 4:41). What does this week’s passage exemplify about Jesus?
 - What does he have power over? What does he care about?

Read Mark 3:22-27. Pastor Jonathan mentioned this passage in his sermon with regards to Jesus ministry of freedom:

- What were the people accusing Jesus of? What was his response?
- In verse 27, who is the one entering the house? And who is the strong man who is bound?
- What is Jesus implying about his ministry through this mini-parable?

Dark areas. Pastor Jonathan mentioned some examples of dark areas of our lives (addictions of all sorts, pain, abuse given/received, occult involvement, bitterness, etc) and how Jesus *wants* to go there and how he has the *power* to bring freedom—just like he did for the demon-possessed man.

- Are there areas of your life where you think Jesus doesn’t want to see / be a part of? Or perhaps areas where you don’t think he can do anything about it?
- Why might you believe this?
- How does this speak to what you believe about Christ?
 - Do you have anything you need to confess about your belief?

Much like the demon-possessed man was alone, in a graveyard, crying out and cutting himself; there is often shame, isolation, bondage, and torment in these “dark corners” of our lives.

- What are some of the lies that you’ve heard / believed with regards to these areas?
- Is there difference between *condemnation* and *conviction*? If so, what is it? (See Romans 8:1, John 16:8)
 - How can we know the difference when we have conflicting thoughts? What is a Christian to do? Who can they go to?

Read Mark 5:6-7.

- What was the demon’s response to seeing Jesus?
- What did he believe about Jesus’ power and authority?
- How does that compare to your *own* view of Jesus?

Jesus *wants* to bring freedom. Jesus has the *power* to bring freedom. The question is, do we want it? What do we actually want?

- Note the various usage of “begging” in this passage (v. 10, 12, 17, 18)
- What was each demon/person begging Jesus to do?
- Do you relate to any of those examples?

Pastor Jonathan described the power and attraction of sin as a “love/hate relationship”:

- What benefit do you derive from your “dark corners”? (Be honest. There is usually something that we enjoy from the things we hate).
- What will it cost you to give it up? In other words, what are you losing by cutting it out of your life?
 - Are you willing to let that go?
 - How can Jesus fill that gap? Do you believe he’s capable?

Read Mark 5:19-20. What has Jesus done in *your* life to bring freedom? In what area of your life have you experienced victory in Jesus? (See also 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

- That is your testimony. Who can you share it with? What is the world that *you* understand (your sphere of influence) and that you can share the hope of Christ with?

Prayer

- Pray for the light of Christ to reveal any and all areas that we may be withholding
- Pray for an increased trust of Jesus' goodness and power so we can / will bring every part of our lives to him
 - Confess our *distrust* of Jesus' goodness and power (our unbelief in his ability to provide for us, free us, etc)
- Pray for conviction, courage, strength and hope to keep going and living for Jesus in the midst of opposition
- Pray for your light (Christ in you) to shine brightly in a dark world and for God's grace upon those it shines