

**The Gospel of Mark: Three Pleas Before Jesus**  
Mark 5:1-20

November 20, 2022  
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**Introduction:**

1. When Demonic meets Divine (vv. 1-9)

2. The Three Pleas (vv. 10-20)

a. The plea of the demons (vv. 10-13)

b. The plea of the people (vv. 14-18a)

c. The plea of the man (vv. 18b-20)

**Conclusion**

### Community Group Questions:

1. Read the parallel accounts of this encounter between Jesus and Legion in Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:24-39. Compare them with Mark's presentation of this event. Can you determine anything specific about Mark's purpose in his presentation?
2. The demon-possessed man is clearly associated with being unclean: he lived in the tombs and was the host of an unclean spirit. How might the fact that he was living in a gentile region influence why he is in this situation? Would the people have made the same association as a Jewish community? What else does Mark use to communicate this reality (vv. 3-5)?
3. While confused about the source of this man's power and strength, the people have attempted to subdue him physically through chains and shackles. How can we understand his situation through these unsuccessful attempts?
4. Knowing that a Roman legion is a term for an army of about four to six thousand men, what does this communicate about the entity within this possessed man? What does it communicate about Jesus?
5. Look back at Jesus calming the storm on their journey to this region in Mark 4:35-41. What do you notice about the two encounters Mark places back-to-back? How does Mark highlight Jesus' authority?
6. Mark 5:19-20 shows that Jesus has turned this demon-possessed man into the first one sent by Jesus in Mark's account. This man has recognized Jesus as Lord (v. 7), and experienced transformation through Jesus' work (v. 15). What does this communicate about his standing before Jesus?
7. Jesus is begged three times each by a different party. Were you surprised by his response to each beggar? What stood out? Have you ever experienced a response like this from God (an unexpected yes or no)?