

## LESSON 7



## JESUS ROOTED UP SATAN'S PLANTS

*Scripture Text: Mark 5:1-20*

In the last two lessons we learned about Jesus sowing seed. Today we see Him rooting up plants of the enemy. We will take a glimpse into the kingdom of Satan. We will find it to be twisted, dark, and evil. It is wholly unsuited to human life. In it are distorted minds, pain, torment, bondage, hatred, and death. It is directly opposite of God's kingdom. God gives us this view to let us see some of the danger in allowing Satan to plant his seed in the heart.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Mark 5:19*

### Face-To-Face Combat

**Mark 5:1-5** Since the last lesson, Jesus and the disciples have crossed the sea to the other side. And immediately there met Jesus **a man with an unclean spirit**—a wicked, unholy spirit. This was not from God. It was from the devil, a demon, and it lived within the body of the man. There are two spirits that are able to control the lives of mankind; the Holy Spirit and the spirit of Satan. Here again, we find there is no middle ground. This spirit caused the man to live among the tombs and not in a house. He was strong and tore off clothing and chains and went about crying and cutting himself with stones. He was wild and could not be tamed—insane. This is the work Satan intends to do on every life that refuses to take the way of Christ. He recognized Jesus as Who He really was. Compare with Matthew 26:63. The spirit of Satan wants no restraint. People held under his control cannot be controlled by man's laws. Man's sinful, untamable nature will never be controlled by legislation. Sin is the cause of much insanity. It is a common expression of those who have committed some sinful deed to say, "I do not know what caused me to do that; I must be crazy!" A large number of people in asylums and jails are there because of devil possession rather than for whatever other reason is given.

Satan has no power except that which we give him. He was able to enslave and shamefully abuse this man, and this is his goal concerning each of us. Devil possession is real. We cannot battle him alone. The only sure route to victory is to let the Spirit of God lead and to make no provision for the flesh (Romans 13:12-14).

### Jesus' Power Over Demons

**Mark 5:6-10** He saw Jesus afar off, and ran and worshipped him. Here was a body crying for help for a tormented soul; the outward man seeking deliverance for the inner man. Here was forced submission to a higher power. It was a paying of respect in order to receive favor. He had an urgent need. The demon, using the man's voice, cried out, **What have I to do with thee, Jesus . . . ?** They were on opposite sides. He feared Jesus. He pleaded, **Torment me not.** He besought Jesus to let him remain in the country. Why? What did he fear? He knew Jesus—**thou Son of the most high God.** Jesus was about to prove to Satan and the people that he owned no country, no territory except that given him by Jesus. He remembered all the promises he had made to Jesus when he tempted Him in the wilderness. Now Jesus was going to prove Satan to be the liar which he was from the beginning. Demons always recognize Jesus as God (Mark 3:11). Why cannot men recognize His Deity? **My name is Legion: for we are many.** Many demons lived in the man's body, using and controlling it. Jesus had said, **Come out of the man.** The demons had to obey the great power of God.

### Demons Sent



**Mark 5:11-17** The devils had been commanded by Jesus to leave the man. Now they must go someplace else. Where? They had no place; they must ask Jesus for a place. **All the devils besought him**—begged Jesus to **send them** into a **herd of swine** feeding nearby. Here Jesus was ready to complete this lesson to these souls about Him. If Jesus would stop here, the people would be left with questions and be unclear on the matter. The demons caused the swine to run **violently down a steep place into the sea**, where they drowned. Jesus not only commanded the demons out of the man, but He ordered them into the swine. Thus He proved His power over the works of Satan and his kingdom of darkness.

The news went out rapidly. The people **went out to see what it was that was done**. They saw what the demons had done to the man. They saw what the demons had done to the swine. They saw what Jesus had done to the man. He was **sitting . . . clothed . . . in his right mind**. What a change! What power was this? What would it do next? **They were afraid**. A great need today is that the power of God will put fear into people, make them more God-conscious. They asked Jesus to leave. They would rather have the demons than Jesus. They would rather have their livelihood than Jesus. He never forces people to accept Him. They had made their choice; Jesus left.

### Living for Jesus

**Mark 5:18-20** The man **that had been possessed with the devil** asked that he might go with Jesus. Now it was the man himself speaking, not the demons. A complete change had taken place. He wanted to be with Jesus. But Jesus said, **Go home**, tell your friends the good news—what Jesus has done for you. This would be better in two ways than the man's plan. (1) The people had sent Jesus away. The man could take Jesus' place in telling the Gospel to them, also showing them an example of Jesus' work. (2) God would get more glory this way than by the man accompanying Jesus. The man obeyed Jesus and **began to publish in Decapolis** the wonderful story. **All men did marvel**. Satan always deals with death and destruction. Christ always gives life and restoration. What will your choice be?

## JUST A THOUGHT

**If just knowing the difference between right and wrong  
were enough, every jail would be empty.**

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