

## On “*The Other Side*”

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Mark 5:1–20 [cf. Mt. 8:28–34; Luke 8:26–39]

Last week’s sermon was about Jesus crossing to “*the other side*” of the Sea of Galilee (Mk. 4:35). Why did Jesus want to cross to “*the other side*?” To go for a boat ride? He knew there was a man on “*the other side*” who needed to be delivered from the power of Satan (cf. “...*he must needs go through Samaria*”). Notice what happened when He arrived on “*the other side*.”

The scene is EERIE—The sun has set and it is nightfall (cf. 4:35). It had already been a wild and stormy night. It’s about to get WILDER!

As Jesus and His disciple get out of the boat, unearthly screams pierce the night air from a nearby graveyard. Immediately, a wild-eyed man possessed with devils runs out of the darkness towards them. This demonic man is bleeding all over his body from where he slashed himself with sharp stones. AND...he’s completely naked! FRIGHTENING!

➡ Very SCARY scene, to say the least.

### I. **The POSSESSED man** (vs. 2–5).

- This man was LITERALLY full of the Devil — a “lost cause.”
- OUT OF CONTROL. An OUTCAST — Ferocious — Fearsome
- Picture of the power of sin

#### A. **UNCLEAN** (v. 2—“*unclean spirit*”).

➡ Blood shot eyes, hairy, foaming, filthy, stinking. SIN SINKS

#### B. **UNCONTROLLABLE** (v. 5).

1. Society can’t solve the SIN problem- All it can offer are PILLS, PSYCHOLOGY, PROGRAMS & PRISONS!
2. Matthew says he was “*exceeding fierce*” —He attacked anyone who came in his vicinity.
  - The reason they tried to bind him with chains was to protect themselves.
3. “*Cutting himself*” — A sign of demonic activity. Sin brings harm to anyone is enslaved by it.

C. **UNCLOTHED.** Luke 8:27 — “*wore no clothes*” — Sin strips you and leaves you naked before God.

- HE was A RUDE, LEWD, CRUDE DUDE... in the NUDE!
  - Another sign of Satanic INFLUENCED society! The closer one gets to the devil, the more clothes they remove.
  - The FIRST place the possessed pigs ran was to the BEACH!
- He was a menace to society. Problems he caused his community:
  - Problem of visiting the cemetery.
  - Problem of disturbing the peace.
  - Problem of being attacked.
  - Problem of public nudity.
  - Problem of homelessness.
  - Problems with friends and family (v. 19).

## II. The PLEA of the devils (vs. 6-13).

A. The **CONFRONTATION** (v. 6).

➤ Instead of attacking Jesus, he fell down and worshipped.

B. The **CONFESSION** (v. 7).

➤ Demons are not atheists or agnostics. They are not fools.

C. The **CASTING OUT** (vs. 8-13).

1. v. 9—The name — “*Legion*”—6000 soldiers! 3 devils per pig.
2. v. 10— Don’t make us leave. Business is good for us here!  
Daniel 10 indicates fallen angels have geographical areas on the earth to spiritually govern (Eph 6:12— “*we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness of this world**, against **spiritual wickedness in high places**.”)*
3. vs. 10-13—Pigs preferred death over demon possession. Committed “swineicide”
  - They hit the road—they were ROAD HOGS!
  - They **squealed** their tires as they sped off... well, they really didn’t have tires, but I bet they *squealed* anyway!
  - Origin of DEVILED HAM?

D. The **CHANGE** (v. 15; Luke 8:35). Problem solved!

1. **Calm** (seated)
2. **Collected** (in his right mind)
3. **Clothed** (Luke 8:35)

➤ Jesus never leaves a man the same way He found Him.

- He was among the dead—Now he's among the living!
- He was possessed of an unclean spirit—Now he has the Holy Spirit!
- He was naked—Now he's clothed in Christ's righteousness!
- He was out of his mind—Now he has the mind of Christ!
- He was in harm's way—Now he's on the heavenly way!
- He terrorized the community—Now he is evangelizing the community (Mk. 5:18-20).

**III. The PRICE of the solution** (vs. 13-17). There is a price to pay for a problem to be solved.

A. 2,000 dead pigs on the sea shore @ 70 cents a pound = \$100,000. Expensive fix!

1. These people would have preferred for the demon possessed man to be choked in the sea instead of their precious pigs! (Raising pigs was an illegal business under Mosaic Law.)
2. Some people would rather have abortion than give up their fornicating life style.
3. For Jesus to live in a community could be expensive. He may get rid of our taverns... casinos... lottery games... adult book stores... our "Pot stores," etc.

B. Asked Jesus depart (v. 17)—They didn't want to pay the cost to have their problem solved. People want God solve their problems, but they don't want it to cost them anything. "Solve our problems, but save our pigs."

- We want our cake and eat it to.
- We want benefits without bills.
- We want success without sacrifice.

- We want a crown without a cross.
- We want well-rounded church ministries without getting involved.
- We want a happy marriage without working at it.
- God, solve our economic problems, but save our pig greed and robbing God.
- God, solve our problem of bitterness, but save the pig of our pride.
- God solve the problem of rebellious children, but save the pig of poor parenting skills.
  - You can't undo 13 years of poor parenting with 30 minutes of counseling.

**SUMMATION:** What are the ingredients to a successful Christian home? Successful church? Work... WORK... **WORK.**

We already have the answers. The issue is whether or not we are willing to PAY THE PRICE to make it happen.

For our problems to be solved it may require us to be:

1. **Dissatisfied**—We must be dissatisfied enough with our current situation.
2. **Discomforted**— Change may be uncomfortable. You need to leave your “comfort zone.”
3. **Disruption**— Our routine may be interrupted. We want deliverance without disturbance. Sometimes our lives will be disturbed for a change to take place (Sam Jones: “A train that makes no noise, raises no dust, and rattles no tracks, will never take anyone anywhere.”)