

First Baptist Church Merritt Island
Pastor Rob Jones
June 25, 2023
An Unavoidable Choice
Mark 5:1-20

5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.^[a] 2 And when Jesus^[b] had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. 3 He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, 4 for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. 6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. 7 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." 8 For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" 9 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, 12 and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." 13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea. 14 The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed^[c] man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. 16 And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. 17 And they began to beg Jesus^[d] to depart from their region. 18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

Big Idea: When standing in the presence and authority of Jesus, we are faced with an unavoidable choice.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE TWO KINGDOMS

1. Jesus invites us into fellowship when sin seeks to isolate us.
3 He lived among the tombs...
2. Jesus offers us freedom when sin seeks to enslave us.
4 for he had often been bound with shackles and chains...

3. Jesus brings us healing when sin seeks to destroy us.
5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones...
4. Jesus holds all authority when sin stands powerless before Him.
6 And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. 7 And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."...
5. Jesus offers us a brand-new identity when sin seeks to hold us in darkness.
9 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." 10 And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country...

THE UNAVOIDABLE CHOICE

When we come face to face with Jesus, we have two choices: we can ask Him to leave, or we can join Him on His mission.

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