

Bible Study for Living A Resurrected Life – Set Free!

Read Mark 5:1-20

Questions:

1. *Why do you think it's significant that the demons clearly know who Jesus is?*
2. *Do you think demons exist today and what forms do you think they take?*

Like Nadia Bolz Weber explained, it doesn't as much matter what a demon is as what a demon does. "Demons are things that isolate us, that separate us, that cause us pain, that make us feel vulnerable and powerless and weak. Be they depression, addiction, stereotypes, or corrupt systems, demons are the things that keep us from living the kinds of lives of connection and richness and freedom that God wants for us."

When Jesus asks the demon for its name, they reply, "Legion, for we are many." The name Legion brings to mind the Roman army and while it's likely that we are meant to think that there are as many demons as soldiers in a legion (6000), it's also possible that the story as a whole is meant to convey a confrontation between Jesus and the Roman Empire.

3. *Mark suggests that the first and perhaps most important step is to name the demons in our midst. By naming and identifying them, we begin to have power over them. What demons do you battle?*

Jesus comes to challenge and cast out every power that prevents us from living fully and freely as human beings created in God's image. And he does it with so much compassion. Just as he did with the woman who had the flow of blood for many years, he raised up the dignity of this man who had been held captive by demons and sets him free!

Jesus continues to have the power to set us free today – be they political, mental or spiritual forces that seek to wreck havoc in our lives.

4. *What would healing look like today? How have you experienced healing in your life?*

Healing is never fully accomplished until there is a restoration to community. In Jesus' ministry, community is always a part of healing. The final step of healing is to end their isolation, to restore the person to their community. If the effect of a demon is isolation, the cure is connectivity.

5. *After seeing the healing of the demon-possessed man, why do you think the people were filled with fear and pleaded with Jesus to leave their region?*
6. *Do we find it hard to believe that Jesus has the same power to heal and set us free today?*
7. *Why might the healed man be reluctant to go back to the community he terrorised?*

8. *What impact did the healed man have on his community and neighbouring towns?*
 9. *What is God saying to you with regards to healing and freedom in this season of your life?*
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