

Jesus returns to the area of the Decapolis in Mark 8:31. Is his reception different? Do you think the testimony of the man Jesus healed from demon-possession might have had anything to do with this reception?

Mark 5: 1-20—SO WHAT!

You may have enjoyed the story, you may have been challenged by some of the story, but we must always ask the question—So What?

What relevance does this story of Jesus from 2,000 years ago have for us today?

Space for Your Sermon Notes:



ST PAUL'S Sarisbury Green

Sunday 25th January 2009
The Clash of Kingdoms

Space for Your Sermon Notes:

Key Passages:

Mark 5: 1-20

Read The Story

The first thing I would encourage everyone to do is to read the book of Mark in one sitting. Read it like any other book and allow God to speak to you through the whole of it.

Going Deeper

Reading the book

If anyone in your group has managed to read the whole book before you meet than ask them how they found it. What, if anything did they learn? How was it different from reading a chapter or a few verses?

Mark 5:1—The Background

Read the verses before the start of Mark 5. How do you think the disciples were feeling when they arrived at the shore of the lake? How do you think Jesus was feeling? Why is this important? How do you respond when you are tired and suddenly someone or something demands your attention?

Mark 5: 2—The Demonic

What do you think Mark means when he describes the man as “a man with an evil spirit?”

Do you believe that individuals can be ‘possessed’ by an evil spirit? If you do what has led you to believe that, if not why not? What is the relationship in your understanding, if any, between demon possession and mental illness? If this man lived in Fareham today where might you find him?

Mark 5: 2-5—A description of the Demonic

Mark describes the demon-possessed man in some detail. See what details you can pick out of the passage. Why do you think Mark included these details?

Mark 5: 6-13 The confrontation

How peaceful or afraid do you think the disciples were?
How peaceful or afraid do you think Jesus was? Why?
Who spoke first?
Why do you think the demon(s) did not obey Jesus’ first command?
How did the demon-possessed man know who Jesus was?
Why was he afraid of him?
Did Jesus ever know the name of the demon(s) who possessed the man?

A roman ‘Legion’ consisted of 6,000 soldiers.

Mark 5: 14-20—The Aftermath

Why were the people afraid?
Why do you think they didn’t bring their sick to Jesus to be healed as we read elsewhere?
Why do you think they pleaded with Jesus to leave them—what does this tell us about them?

Often Jesus tells those who he heals not to tell anyone (yet they always do!) but here he tells the man to go and tell his family/friends why do you think it is different here?

Remember that Jesus is not on Jewish territory, he has crossed over the lake into non-Jewish (Gentile) lands.