

JESUS SAVES:

“A Menace to Society”



MARK 5:1-20

5 Jesus and his followers went to the other side of the lake to the area of the Gerasene people. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, instantly a man with an evil spirit came to him from the burial caves. ³ This man lived in the caves, and no one could tie him up, not even with a chain.⁴ Many times people had used chains to tie the man's hands and feet, but he always broke them off. No one was strong enough to control him.⁵ Day and night he would wander around the burial caves and on the hills, screaming and cutting himself with stones.

⁶ While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him, ran to him, and fell down before him.

⁷ The man shouted in a loud voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I command you in God’s name not to torture me!” ⁸ He said this because Jesus was saying to him, “You evil spirit, come out of the man.”

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He answered, “My name is Legion, because we are many spirits.” ¹⁰ He begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of that area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on a hill near there. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, “Send us into the pigs; let us go into them.” ¹³ So Jesus allowed them to do this. The evil spirits left the man and went into the pigs. Then the herd of pigs—about two thousand of them—rushed down the hill into the lake and were drowned. ¹⁴ The herdsmen ran away and went to the town and to the countryside, telling everyone about this. So people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the man who used to have the many evil spirits, sitting, clothed, and in his right mind. And they were frightened.

¹⁶ The people who saw this told the others what had happened to the man who had the demons living in him, and they told about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then the people began to beg Jesus to leave their area.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting back into the boat, the man who was freed from the demons begged to go with him.

¹⁹ But Jesus would not let him. He said, “Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and how he has had mercy on you.” ²⁰ So the man left and began to tell the people in the Ten Towns about what Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

“A MENACE TO SOCIETY”

- 1. His Condition**
- 2. His Encounter**
- 3. His Testimony**

HIS CONDITION

1. Alienated/bad terms

EPHESIANS 2:1-3 (NCV)

In the past you were spiritually dead because of your sins and the things you did against God.² Yes, in the past you lived the way the world lives, following the ruler of the evil powers that are above the earth. That same spirit is now working in those who refuse to obey God.³ In the past all of us lived like them, trying to please our sinful selves and doing all the things our bodies and minds wanted. We should have suffered God's anger because we were sinful by nature. We were the same as all other people.

HIS CONDITION

1. **Alienated/bad terms**
2. **Enslaved/chains**

HIS CONDITION

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3. **Stripped of his identity**

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1. **Alienated/bad terms**
2. **Enslaved/chains**
3. **Stripped of his identity**
4. **Self-loathing/hate**

*“Before you can live, a part of you has to die. You have to let go of what could have been, how you should have acted and what you wish you would have done differently. You have to accept that you can’t change the past experiences, opinions of others at that moment in time or outcomes from their choices or yours. When you finally recognize that truth, then you will understand the true meaning of forgiveness of yourself and others. From this point you will finally be free.” — **Shannon L. Alder***

HIS CONDITION

1. **Alienated/bad terms**
2. **Enslaved/chains**
3. **Stripped of his identity**
4. **Self-loathing/hate**
5. **Self-afflicting/damaging**

DO ANY OF THESE SOUND FAMILIAR?

- *“I knew I’d fail.”*
- *“I’ll never lose weight.”*
- *“I’ll never start my business.”*
- *“My marriage is over”*
- *“Where did we go wrong”*
- *“Why can’t I be more like...”*

HIS ENCOUNTER

1. He runs to Jesus

HIS TESTIMONY

JESUS SAVES!

EPHESIANS 2:4-5 (NCV)

⁴ But God's mercy is great, and he loved us very much. ⁵ Though we were spiritually dead because of the things we did against God, he gave us new life with Christ. You have been saved by God's grace.

JESUS SAVES!

