

Taking It Home:

- Jesus is more powerful than any force of Satan. Read Romans 8:31-39 and ask yourself, “When am I most likely to not believe this truth?” If you’ve never memorized 8:38-39, consider memorizing those verses this week.

- 1 John 2:15-17 tells us there is a pattern of this world which leads to destruction. What TV shows, movies, music, Internet sites, or other inputs in your life can you identify which align more with the world than with God? If God were to call you to go “cold turkey” and quit allowing these inputs in your life, would you do it? When?

- Jesus’ instruction in 5:19 is simple and powerful. The man begged to be with Jesus. What did Jesus tell him to do? In light of 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 and Mark 5:19, what is one thing you could do differently because of this study?

Recommended Resources

- *The Bondage Breaker* by Neal T. Anderson
- *The Invisible War* by Chip Ingram

Piercing the Darkness
Two Thousand Pigs Under the Sea
Mark 5:1-20

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
October 13, 2013

Two Thousand Pigs Under the Sea

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelcf.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 13, 2013

Mark 5:1-20

Quick Review: Jesus is immediately thrust into a conflict with a man possessed by demons, as He and His disciples arrive on the other side of the Sea of Galilee in Mark 5. The place where they land was conquered by Alexander the Great and later brought under Roman control by Pompey. Mark's immediate audience in Rome would see the connections between this event and their current struggle under Roman leaders who were daily harassing and killing them for following Jesus. Even the language of "legion" highlights the connection Mark is trying to make. For the early reader and for the reader today, we are reminded that Jesus is more powerful than any evil brought against Him.

My Story:

- If you had to only pick two, what are the two craziest TV shows dealing with spirituality today?
- Has anyone ever harassed you or made you feel like you were not a part of the in crowd because you follow Jesus? What is that like?
- If you've ever had an experience with a demonic presence how did you respond?

Growing Deeper:

- In Mark 5:1-20, the demonic force living within this man identified itself as, "legion." A Roman legion was over 6,000 men plus horsemen and support team. What had the people tried to contain this possessed man?
- Place yourself in the sandals of one of the pig farmers whose pigs just died. What are some of the most likely responses you would have to this event? How does the text describe their response?
- How does 1 Peter 5 instruct you to respond to your enemy, the devil? In what ways does the pattern of 1 Peter 5:8-11 fit the story of Mark 5?
- When Paul wrote Ephesians 6:10-20, he gave instruction on how to respond to the attacks of our enemy. How would you summarize this passage in your own words?