

June 10, 2018 – Elmont Baptist Church
Message Series: The Gospel of Mark
Week 20: “...He Has Had Mercy on You.”
Text: Mark 5:1-20

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. Mark’s audience is Romans believers, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.”

A few weeks ago we started into one of two of sections of extended teaching that Mark records in his writing. Jesus tells 4 parables. A parable uses everyday objects, activities, or circumstance to teach a spiritual truth. In the first parable we were able to see that the sower is Jesus, and anyone who shares the gospel, announces the Kingdom of God, and there are 4 types of soil – 3 unbelievers, 1 true believer.

Remember, Mark lays this out strategically where Jesus has just finished teaching through three parables about who He is for those who are ready to receive it and really listening. He is teaching them that He is worthy of all worship and glory, something only reserved for God, Yahweh, in their minds – meaning Jesus is God! Then he records Jesus showing or illustrating the truth of who He is through miracles. These miracles show His authority over nature, satan/demonic power, over disease, and over death. We covered the first one last week and now we come to another miracle of Jesus setting someone free from the hold of the enemy.

The Truth is that...

- ✓ **The Enemy is Real & Powerful**
 - **He lies & deceives**
 - **To defile & destroy**

C.S. Lewis said that there are two equal & opposite responses to demons. 1) Is to deny their existence, and 2) is to have an unhealthy interest in them. Satan is fine with either response.

Lies & Deceives – John 10:10; John 8:44; 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8 – in v 16-17 – these people are deceived and their hearts are blind to who Jesus is and they want nothing to do with Him.

Defile & Destroy – the enemy hates you because you are an image bearer of God. Destroy – evidenced in the fate of the pigs.

This man is not just demon possessed. He his possessed by many demons. Legion is the term for a contingency of 6,000 Roman soldiers.

- ✓ **But Jesus Speaks & Conquers**
 - **He saves & sets free – v 15**
 - **To love & proclaim – v 18-20**

The enemy is no match for Jesus – Revelation 20:7-10. Romans 8:31-39. Love & Proclaim – the man wanted to go with Jesus (love) but Jesus commissioned him to tell (proclaim) what God has done for him, and he does – like it’s second nature. The testimony is that God has had mercy on him. He didn’t do anything to deserve mercy. He didn’t even ask for mercy.

Bottom line:

If you are a Christ-follower: No matter where you were when Jesus found you, he has had mercy on you. And if we have received mercy, then we have a commission, a joy-filled commission, to tell of His mercy!

If you are not a Christ-follower: No matter where you are or what you’ve done, he has mercy for you.

Thinking it Through...

- ✓ **How does the enemy try to lie to you and deceive you?**
- ✓ **How has Jesus proven to be mightier than the enemy in your life?**
- ✓ **Do you look for opportunities to joyfully share how God has had mercy on you through Jesus?**