

LIVE FREE! | Mark 5:1-20

In this study, we will look at a powerful passage of Scripture that embodies the freedom from bondage that Christ brings and sheds light on how we can serve others, especially those living in darkness and bondage. Let's see what God's Word has to say!

Read Mark 5:1-20

1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Additional Bible References: [John 8:31-36](#); [Luke 8:26-39](#); [Hebrews 10:25](#); [Proverbs 29:18](#); [2 Timothy 3:1](#); [1 Peter 5:8](#); [Exodus 3:7](#); [John 10:10](#) [**SPANISH**]

Questions for Reflection

1. What speaks to you the most? What words stand out to you? Is there a key verse?
2. The man lived among the tombs, cut off from community. How does this reflect the loneliness and isolation many experience today? He appeared unrestrained outwardly but was deeply bound inwardly. Where do you see this dynamic in modern culture? Jesus intentionally entered Gentile territory to meet him. What does this teach us about engaging places or people we might normally avoid?
3. After being set free, he is found “in his right mind.” How does Christ restore clarity, identity, and sanity in a person’s life? Which of the six characteristics (alone, bound, tormented, roaming, crying out, hurting) do you see most commonly in your community, and how does Jesus address it?
4. Consider the following responses: include the lonely, offer hope to the bound, give peace to the tormented, show purpose to the aimless, give time to the overlooked, lavish love on the hurting. Which is the hardest for you to put into practice? How can the church cultivate a culture where people feel seen, welcomed, and safe enough to share their struggles?
5. Jesus sends the healed man back into his culture rather than allowing him to follow physically. Why might this be significant? What fears or hesitations keep believers from engaging their culture with the gospel? How can the church become a community that plants “seeds in dark places,” bringing light into spiritually resistant environments?
6. Identify one major takeaway from this lesson. What insight did you gain? Summarize it in one or two sentences.

Summary: The story of the demoniac in Mark 5:1–20 is a living illustration of freedom from bondage. Jesus crosses cultural, spiritual, and social boundaries to liberate a tormented and isolated man who is bound and hurting, living a life without any meaning. His transformation — sitting at Jesus' feet, dressed and in his right mind — reveals what Christ can do for every person trapped in darkness.

- **Real freedom is found in a Person, not a place.** Jesus liberates us from bondage and restores us to our right mind.
- **Real freedom goes back into the world.** Like the healed man, we are sent into our culture to proclaim mercy and demonstrate the kingdom.

Live FREE! True freedom is not escape — it is assignment. Real freedom doesn’t run from the world; it goes into the world. We are set free to serve others in love and to tell others how much the Lord has done so they can find freedom in Christ!

Lord Jesus, we come before You grateful for the freedom You give. We ask that You continue to set us free in every place where darkness still clings to our hearts. Restore our minds, bring us peace, and anchor our identity in You. Let Your mercy reshape us into people who reflect Your compassion and Your love. We pray that You send us back into our culture with courage and love. Empower us to testify boldly to all You have done for us.