

Thankful for our Freedom - Mark 5.1-20

1991 DOOR OF FREEDOM opened in Kazakhstan - Republic was born
 IRON CURTAIN FELL > door opened for Preaching of Gospel
 1991 > 8 known Kazakh Christians TODAY > more than 10,000

Freedom in Afghanistan & Iraq > brings opportunity to hear Good News

GOSPEL STORY same > ALL NEED GRACE > Kazakh or Californian
 COMMON TESTIMONY “once was lost, but now am found”

ONE MAN IN SCRIPTURE BECOMES A MICROCOSM OF WORLD -

Matthew’s gospel says were 2 men - Mark’s focus on just one
 We can see in him the quest for freedom of every person in the world

Promised Freedom of Satan / Partial F.. of Society / Perfect Freedom of the Savior

Gospel of Mark - portrays Jesus as a Man of Action and Authority

w/ disciples crossed Lake Tiberias / Sea of Galilee > Gentile territory
 very hilly and rocky area, the mountains of Galeed run through it.

TOMBS on mtns, and cut out of them, usual to cut their graves out of rocks.

PROBLEM - verse 2 - “man with an evil spirit”

Strange Scene - only picture of life in remote villages?

late 1970’s Temple U/IVCF - young woman student – similar behavior

1. The Promised Freedom of Satan

Freedom 1st promised in Eden to Adam and Eve

“your eyes will be opened, be like God”

Promised in many attractive & exciting ways to the world’s people:

“Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light” (2 Corinth 11.14)

PROMISES OF EASY MONEY AND MOMENTS OF ECSTASY

Kaz – People have left Atheism for Secular Materialism > MALLS!
 WE DO NOT KNOW SPECIFIC PROMISES OF SATAN TO THIS MAN
 tho we see him in his depravity, he was made with dignity, image of God

SPECULATE WHAT HAPPENED - GRADUAL DEGENERATION??
 from Image Bearer of God to Bearing A LEGION OF DEMONS

Jesus > Satan is a “thief” - who kills, steals, and destroys - John 10.10
 Satan wants to steal and destroy: AS WE SEE IN THIS MAN

- DESTROYS Our homes - v. 3 “lived in tombs”
 man lived in the tombs of the dead: so unsaved live among dead sinners,

EVIL ONE WANTS to rule HOMES brings hatred, strife, and evil - TV

USA > 98 % percent of all homes have a TV / only 96 % have flush toilets
 MORE SEWAGE COMES INTO HOME THAN CAN BE FLUSHED OUT

- DESTROYS Our family & friends - “lived in the tombs - alone”
 v. 19 “go home to your family” HE ONCE LIVED WITH FAMILY

DEVIL IS A POOR CHOICE FOR FRIENDSHIP - James asks (4.4)
 “Don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?”

- DESTROYS Our dignity - “dressed” v. 15 - had been naked

for CENTURIES TATOOS & BODY PIERCING > Slaves & PRISONERS
 today they are marks of being fashionable and socially acceptable

- DESTROYS self-control - “no one could bind him” v. 3 - not self
 Jewish writings - “the sign of a madman: he goes out in the night, “lodges among
 the tombs”, and rends his garments, and loses what is given to him.”
 CONFIRMS every WIFE’S SUSPICION of HUSBAND who LOSES things

- DESTROYS Our peace & rest “night & day he would cry out” v. 5
 Spirit of ANGER in unbelievers: mad agnst God, and Christ, and the saints
 LIKE SAUL BEFORE HIS CONVERSION

- DESTROYS Our health - “cut himself with stones” v. 5
OUR OWN worst enemies, cutting and wounding ourselves with our sins

- DESTROYS purpose for living - “what do you want with me? v. 7
Devil gave new identity - 1000’s of identities - Roman Legion 4 to 6,000
MAN LEGION SERVING TERRIBLE - SOUL DESTROYING - MASTER

BOB DYLAN “You gotta serve someone, it may be the devil,
it may be the Lord, but you gotta serve someone”

Jesus - “He who is not for me is against me” / NO MIDDLE GROUND

- DESTROYS Our life itself - thief to kill, and steal, and destroy
Apart from God’s grace -- sinners will destroy themselves > soul and body

Evil spirits are active > great influence in the affairs of men > SOME Laugh

OUR ENEMY the devil, goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may
devour. 1 Peter 5.8,9

If DEVIL Cannot DESTROY A MAN HE will DESTROY a PIG - 2,000!
HE is NOT HAPPY to SEE EVEN the CREATURES of GOD AT PEACE
Jesus calls the devil, “A murderer from the beginning”

Unbelievers we know may look much more dignified THAN LEGION
yet in “trap of the devil who has taken them captive to do his will” (2 T2.26)

What the devil CANNOT do:

1. Tell what God’s plans are v. 7 “what do you want with me?”

ONE GOD AND FATHER OVER ALL - NOT 2 RIVAL DEITIES
“He is the King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God” (1 Tim 1.17)

2. Know what man’s plans are - no evidence in Bible he can read our minds
DEVIL INVISIBLE but NOT OMNISCIENT - DOES NOT KNOW ALL

3. CANNOT Be in more than one place at a time

v. 13 “evil spirits went out (of the man) and went into the pigs”
ONLY GOD is OMNIPRESENT- DEVIL is CREATURE in Space & TIME

4. Devil CANNOT Go anywhere God does not allow -

v. 12 demons begged Jesus, “send us into the herd of pigs”

MAN NAMED Legion COULD BREAK HIS CHAINS – but NOT Satan

“And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years” Revelation 20.1,2

Devil CANNOT move w/out Christ's permission, unless God lengthens chain

5. Satan CANNOT Do anything without God’s permission

v. 13 “he gave them permission”

What can be done for such a miserable man?

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin... You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire.” John 8.34,44

2. The Partial Freedom of Society

Society’s Response - BIND HIM FOR HIS OWN GOOD & OTHERS

This is not a bad thing - One of Governments functions is to restrain evil
MAN BOUND > proper to prevent hurting himself, and doing injury to others

v. 4 - No Permanent Solution - “he had OFTEN been chained”

v. 4 - Deals only with outward symptoms - “chained HAND and FOOT”

v. 4 - Not effective - “he TORE the chains APART and BROKE the irons”

Power OF EVIL INTENSIFIES Strength - DO WHAT YOU CANNOT DO

v. 4 - Not strong enough - “NO ONE was strong enough to subdue him”

Mighty man w/ all his scientific advances is powerless agnst devil & tactics

People CANNOT be bound, restrained, and governed, by laws, commands, and ordinances > they despise them, ignore them, break them

Society offers partial FREEDOM - not enough to set a man TOTALLY free

American answer > PEOPLE NEED MORE EDUCATION

American people have become most educated sinners in world

MILITARY ANSWER > Smart BOMBED Afghanistan & Iraq

FULLY SUPPORT BOTH THOSE HORRIBLE BUT NECESSARY WARS

BUT CAN'T STOP People in these Nations from KILLING

Saw BEST SOCIETY CAN DO – in beautiful BERN, SWITZERLAND YOUNG PEOPLE ALL ON DRUGS – ONLY DIRTY - IN SWITZ!!

Answer > GIVE DRUGS TO ADDICTS – OR they will kill and steal to get

AT BEST - THE FREEDOM SOCIETY GIVES IS ONLY PARTIAL

3. The Perfect Freedom of the Savior

Jesus the Liberator - Mark 3 > came to destroy Satan's kingdom

“No one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house” (v. 28)

- He calms the terrible storms in our own lives -

Mark's sequence of events: Jesus travels through the storm to reach this man

4.39 “Quiet, be still” - same command he used against demons in Mark 1.25
perhaps Satan caused a storm to kill the Son of God

JESUS ENDURES ANY PERIL or FOE FOR OUR FREEDOM –
EVEN THE CROSS

- He stands against our accuser v. 7 - WORDS OF CURSE AND ATTACK
MAN SHOUTS CURSE UPON JESUS / TRYING TO INTIMIDATE HIM

demon who shouted the loudest was one with greatest power

EVEN WORDS OF HIS CURSE CONTAIN AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“The Most High God” God ‘s supreme government over all the world
 // Hebrew word "Elion", a name of God known to the ancient Canaanites:
 since Melchizedek, a Canaanite king, was called priest of the most high God

- He shows NO FEAR of the devil - Must have been quite intimidating
 v. 6 “he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran & fell on his knees in front of him
PROBABLY SAW AND SMELLED HIM COMING FOR A LONG WAY

Jesus Did NOT RUN AWAY - He is clearly in control of Himself & situation

**BELIEVERS IN JESUS ARE NOT TO FEAR THE DEVIL -
 WE ARE PARTAKERS OF X’s POWER & AUTHORITY - HOLY SPIRIT**

DEVIL IS LIKE A ROARING LION - BUT WE ARE TOLD TO:

“Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering” (1 Pet 5.9)

- He defeats the devil completely v. 8
 He spoke command: **COME OUT!** - Demons **CAN ONLY PLEAD MERCY**

THIS IS IN FULFILLMENT OF THE FIRST PROMISE OF HIS COMING
 He is the Son of Eve come to crush the head of the serpent

The bruising of His heel was his own death on the cross //
 Agonizing mortal blow - but only a temporary tragedy for the immortal God

THIS VICTORY IS OURS IN JESUS

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16.20)

- He calls us by name v. 9 **NAME ?? - LEGION!!!**
 Question NOT asked for Jesus’ benefit - He knew name and # of demons in

NOT ASKED AS a method of exorcism : Peter Wagner - Man who claims to have gift of lengthening legs, now claims to have gift of naming demons which inhabit people – necessary to name them to cast them out!

THIS TEXT GIVES NO SUCH MANDATE OR PRECEDENT

Benefit? – Filled with awe in the power of evil & greater power of Jesus

Man's Benefit - Know his terrible condition & great pity and power of Son of God

- He has the power to heal completely - inside and out

Demons begged to enter pigs / ONE MASSIVE CHARGE OF POSSESSED PIGS

IMAGINE SIGHT - 2000 pigs doing half gainers & triple flips from pike position
THIS WAS THE INVENTION OF THE TERM “belly flop”

GREATER MIRACLE v. 15 “man...sitting there, dressed and in his right mind”
MAN who COULD NOT BE HELD BY CHAINS IS BOUND by LOVE OF GOD

v. 15 “and they were afraid” // HOW MANY HAD FLED HIS TERROR?

HOW MANY OF THEM HAD TRIED TO CHAIN THIS WILD MAN??

- He is REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD

v. 14 “those tending the pigs ran off and reported what they saw”

MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIFIED BY THE SCREAMS OF DROWNING PIGS

PERHAPS MORE TERRIFIED AT BEING GUILTY FOR FINANCIAL LOSS
RAN TO EXPLAIN THE DISASTER AND VINDICATE THEIR ACTIONS

GREAT CROWD CAME FROM CITY // Matthew “the whole town came out”

GREAT TEST OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT - what was the greatest miracle?
Lake Tiberias turned into SWINE SOUP // or a mad-man was made whole?

DOES JESUS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DESTROY THE LOCAL ECONOMY??

If they were Jews they were clearly violating the Law of Moses

If they were Gentiles should have seen one Greater than Moses was among them

SHOULD HAVE INVITED HIM TO HEAL & RESTORE WHOLE VILLAGE
BUT THE WORLD HAS NO PLACE FOR JESUS

No place for HIM to be BORN -No where to LAY His Head- Only place CROSS

v. 17 “the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region” – WHY??

PERHAPS saw Jesus as an EXORCIST or MAGICIAN who would torment them

♦ OR they sensed His Holiness & felt their utter sinfulness and unworthiness
WONDERED IF THEY’D BE DRIVEN OFF THE CLIFFS AND DROWNED

They DON’T COMPLAIN ABOUT PIGS / PAYMENT?? - WANT HIM GONE!!

SIN IS GOOD BUSINESS - imagine healing off all alcoholics & drug addicts
WOULD THOSE WHO PROFIT FROM THOSE VICIES REJOICE?

JESUS DOES NOT STAY WHERE HE IS NOT INVITED / TRAVELS AWAY

- His call to freedom is a call to service

WHEN HE WAS SET FREE BY SATAN - free to destroy himself, family, future

NOW HE’S FOUND PERFECT FREEDOM in JESUS - Perfect PEACE & REST

PEACE OF X - passes all understanding - NOW GUARDS his HEART & MIND
You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in y

HE NOW WORE THE ROYAL ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS /
GARMENTS OF GRACE AND SALVATION

GOES FULL CYCLE : a man - unwillingly bound / NOW willingly submits
Anglican Prayer Book “In your service is perfect freedom”

- He has the power to answer prayer - 2 of 3 in chapter – really 3! Mt. 28.20

1. Of demons - vs. 10,12 “begged Jesus - to go inhabit the pigs” HE PERMITS

THEY WANT NOTHING TO DO w/ JESUS yet HE has much to do with them

ABRAHAM KUYPER “there is not one square inch in all the universe over which Jesus does not say, “it is mine!””

X SPEAKS AS SOLEMN JUDGE AND EXECUTOR OF THEIR JUDGMENT

2. Of townspeople - v. 17 “the people began to plead w/ Jesus to leave” HE Does

3. Of man - v. 18 “he begged to go with Jesus” HE REFUSES

STRANGE > X ANSWERS PRAYERS OF DEMONS & GODLESS
AND APPARENTLY REJECTS PRAYER OF THE MAN

OF COURSE MAN WANTED TO BE WITH THE ONE WHO SET HIM FREE
those who have tasted His Grace and Mercy - can never have enough

He wanted to remain in His presence, receive His counsel, & taste of His goodness

WOULD YOU WANT to be in a VILLAGE that LOVES PIGS MORE THAN U?

JESUS DID NOT LET HIM CLIMB INTO BOAT AND LEAVE THE AREA

BUT HE was NOT LEFT ALONE - He was with Him always, to end of the age
presence of Christ is eternal and unending – will become unimaginably wonderful

Evidence of presence: v. 20 He was a witness thru 10 cities, and all were amazed!

Perhaps 3 prayers express the different sentiments of people in this room:

Some so bound by Satan, so in love with his promise of freedom, prefer the pigs

Others think Jesus demands too great, economic cost too high, cannot live w/ Him

Others know only He can set them free -and the beg to go with Him forever

MAN WAS LEFT WHERE HE WAS BECAUSE THE MASTER HAD WORK
FOR HIM TO DO - FOR HIS OWN HONOR AND GLORY

Those in 3rd position hear these words of the Great Liberator:

“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you”

HOW MUCH HAS THE LORD DONE FOR YOU??

THANKFUL? > Make Him known > across the street / around the world