

March 29, 2026 – Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group

“Out of the Tombs” – Mark 5:1-20

1. (Verse 1) The region of the Gerasenes (the Decapolis) had deep roots going back to the Old Testament books of Joshua and Judges. What was the historical significance of this specific territory, and why does it matter that Jesus deliberately crossed the sea to go there?
2. (Verses 2-5) Look closely at how Mark describes the man in the tombs. From a first-century Jewish perspective, what specific details made this man completely "unclean" and entirely isolated from God's presence and human society?
3. (Verses 4-5) The ultimate goal of the demonic forces is to begin to isolate and demean the image of God leading to total destruction. How do we see this destructive strategy practically playing out in the demoniac's physical and social condition? Does this happen today?
4. (Verses 3-4 & 6-13) Contrast the townspeople's attempts to solve the problem with Jesus' approach. Why were human chains and shackles completely ineffective, and what does Jesus' simple verbal command over "Legion" reveal about His identity?
5. (Verses 10-12) The demonic forces "beg" (*parakaleo*) Jesus not to send them out of the country, but rather to send them into the pigs. What does the fact that a legion of fierce, destructive demons has to beg for permission tell us about the power dynamic between the kingdom of darkness and Jesus?

6. (Verses 14-17) The townspeople come out and witness a miraculous restoration—a wild, dangerous man is now sitting peacefully in his right mind. Yet, their response is immense fear, and they beg Jesus to leave. Why were they more terrified of Jesus' healing power than they were of the demon-possessed man?

7. (Verse 17) The people beg (*parakaleo*) Jesus to leave their region, and surprisingly, He complies. How did the sermon connect Jesus' willing acceptance of this rejection and banishment to His ultimate saving work?

8. (Verse 15) Contrast the man's condition in verse 15 ("sitting there, clothed and in his right mind") with his initial description in verses 3-5. What does this complete reversal teach us about the nature of the peace and restoration that Christ brings?

9. (Verses 18-20) The healed man begs (*parakaleo*) to get into the boat with Jesus, which seems like a great request. Yet, Jesus says no and sends him back home to the Decapolis. Why is it significant that Jesus sent him back to the very people who just rejected Him, and what was his specific mission?

10. The Greek word *parakaleo* (to beg or plead) is actually a major literary thread tying this entire passage together. Three very different groups "beg" Jesus: the demons (v. 10, 12), the townspeople (v. 17), and finally, the healed man (v. 18). Look closely at what each of these three is specifically begging Jesus for. How do their requests reveal their hearts and their relationship to the King?