

He wasn't running around without any purpose anymore, but rather, where he went, he took the Gospel of Jesus with him. As a matter of fact, the only thing he didn't restrain was his desire to tell people about Jesus.

Because Jesus could produce this huge change in this man, he can do it for us today. Before Jesus, we were destructive in our actions and totally unrestrained, doing whatever our hearts desired and that just led to more self-destructive behavior. Then, Jesus came in and showed us a better way to live, and do things, and the reason why it is better to do what He says as opposed to what we think will make us happy.

Jesus did all those great things for that poor Gentile he had never met before. He can do the same for us. All



we have to do is come and acknowledge Him, falling down at His feet and worshipping Him as the Son of the Most High God.

By Curtis Carwile

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

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### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

#### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

#### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
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## Three Lessons from Legion

In Mark 5:1-20, we have the story about Jesus healing the demon possessed man. Even though this is a peculiar story, I think that we can learn three very important things from it. We'll look at what Jesus did for that man and what Jesus can do for us.

The text records for us: "Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit" (5:1-2).

This man, we are told, "had his dwelling among the tombs; and

no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones" (5:3-5).

When Jesus encountered the man, all of this changed. We read: "When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You,

**Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me”** (5:6-7). Jesus’ intention was not to torment the man. He commanded, **“Come out of the man, unclean spirit!”** (5:8). Jesus then talks with the spirit directly and we learn that the spirit’s name is, **“Legion; for we are many”** (5:9). Jesus cast the demons out of the man and sends them into a herd of swine, which then ran into the sea and drowned (5:10-13).

After this, everything was different for the man. The text tells us that he was, **“sitting and clothed and in his right mind”** (5:15). When Jesus starts to leave, we learn: **“And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. 19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, ‘Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.’”** (5:18-19). The man tells more than just his friends: **“he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled”** (5:20). The *Decapolis*, “ten cities” learn about

Jesus from this man!

Let’s Notice three things Jesus did for this man:

**1. He took a man who was out of his mind and put him back in his right one.** If you look at this man, he was running around naked, hiding out in the tombs with dead people, and cutting himself. When the man came to Jesus, Jesus put him back in his right mind and you can see what he was like afterwards. He put on some clothes. He was spending time with living people. He was learning from Jesus and teaching others about Him after Jesus went back to the other side.

This is a huge change and he can do the same for us. When we sin, we are clearly not in our right mind and Jesus can put us back in our right minds. Think about it. Before Jesus we were spiritually naked. Like the fairy tale of the emperor, tricked into wearing nothing for his new clothing, outside of Christ we imagine that we are just fine, when we are spiritually naked. Before Jesus, we were hanging out with the spiritually dead. We hurt ourselves by doing the things of the world—sinning.

After we come to Jesus, look what we are. We are clothed in His righteousness and we have put on Christ in baptism. We are spending time with the saved ones, the ones who are alive in Christ. We stop hurting ourselves by doing those horrible things we used to do—we stop sinning.

**2. He took a man who was tormented and put him at peace.** When you look at this man before Jesus, he was possessed by demons and I can’t even begin to imagine how horrible that would have been; knowing you can’t do anything about it. He was all alone. He was cutting himself, causing physical harm to himself. He was also a social outcast. Even though he had demons in his head, that’s all he had. Then, when Jesus comes along, this man no longer has those demons. He was surrounded by people that cared for him in Jesus, the disciples, and his friends and family. You also see him not hurting himself anymore. He’s just sitting down with some new “old friends.”

Once again, this is a huge change and this is exactly what Jesus does for us today. Before Jesus, we have all sorts of

demons that haunt us. There are sins that we feel guilty for committing that plague our thoughts, awake and asleep. Before Jesus, we are alone no matter how many people we have around us because in this world. Before Jesus, we did a lot of ignorant stuff, like drinking and smoking and drugs and fornicating and cursing and hating and killing and whatever else that truly hurt us and others badly. But, after Jesus came into our lives, we have no sins to feel guilty about because Jesus took them all away. After we come in contact with Jesus, we have a family that truly cares about us and that we can truly care about. After Jesus, we do things to help ourselves and others, namely we help bring others to Jesus. Finally...

**3. He took a man who was out of control and gave him control.** This man was destroying himself with uncontrolled power. Jesus was able to rein it in and he was able to control it. You look at the man and he was breaking chains, breaking shackles, breaking out of jail, running around without any restraints. After Jesus, he was able to sit down without being held down, on his own accord or free will. It was his choice.