**Sermon Notes**

**“Jesus vs. Legion”**

**Mark 5:1–20 (NIV84)**

**1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, 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? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil 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 evil 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 family 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.**

**1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.**

**v. 1**

“The Other Side” = Decapolis

* Centre of Hellenism, established through the theatre, arena, gymnasium, and temples.

**v.2**

Isaiah 65:4

4 who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil;

**v. 15**

1. The man is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. The people are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. The people want \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are we willing to lose \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ so that others can gain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**v. 18-29**

Sometimes the place Jesus calls us is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

The man’s greatest “demon”: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the most personally impactful aspect of this message for you and why?
2. What kind of person are you tempted to write-off as a “lost cause”? How does this story challenge your attitude?

3. What idols do you believe those in the city of Nelson are most captured by? What is your evidence for this?

4. What does this encounter teach us about how we as Christians are to confront evil?

5. What challenges would the man have faced going back home and sharing what Jesus had done for him? What specific challenges do you face sharing what God has done for you in your home/family?