

From Desperation to Deliverance: When Jesus Steps In

1. Freedom for the Tormented (Mark 5:1–20)

Jesus and the disciples land on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Gadarenes—Gentile territory where swine were raised. They step into spiritual darkness almost immediately.

A man possessed by many demons comes rushing from the tombs. He's wild, uncontrollable, isolated, and self-destructive—no one could tame him, and he was cutting himself with stones, screaming through the night. He's the picture of total bondage and despair.

But when he saw Jesus, even in his tormented state, he *ran to Him and fell down before Him* (v. 6). Even the demons recognized the authority of Jesus and had to bow.

Personal Application:

Sometimes the enemy tries to convince us we're too far gone, too bound, too broken. But this story reminds us—no chain is too strong, no pit too deep, no soul too tormented for Jesus to rescue. Run to Him. Even in your worst state—run to Him.

Jesus commanded the demons to come out. They revealed their name—*Legion*, meaning many. The demons begged to be sent into a herd of pigs. Jesus allowed it. The pigs rushed off a cliff and drowned.

The townspeople rushed to see what happened. And they found the man, who used to terrorize the area, now *“sitting and clothed and in his right mind”* (v. 15). What a powerful picture of redemption.

But instead of celebrating the miracle, the people begged Jesus to leave. Why? Because their pigs—their livelihood—were gone. They valued their economy more than this man's deliverance.

Reflection:

When Jesus disrupts your comfort zone—your business, your routine—how do you respond? Do you ask Him to leave? Or do you welcome the miracle even if it costs you something?

Interestingly, the man wanted to go with Jesus—but Jesus told him to stay and share what God had done.

“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.” (v. 19)

That's our mission too. Share what Jesus has done for you. Let your testimony speak.

2. Faith in the Face of Despair (Mark 5:21–43)

Back on the western shore, the crowds swarm again. But one man breaks through—Jairus, a synagogue leader. A man of religious standing and social stature, now desperately pleading for his daughter's life.

“My little daughter lies at the point of death. Please come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.” (v. 23)

Jesus agrees to go with him. But as they walk, the crowd slows them down. Then something unexpected happens.

A Woman's Secret Battle (vv. 25–34)

A woman, who had been bleeding for twelve years, quietly reaches for Jesus. She doesn't speak to Him—just touches His robe, believing that will be enough.

"If I can just touch His clothes, I'll be healed." (v. 28)

And she was. Immediately.

Jesus stops, sensing that power went out of Him. He turns and asks, *"Who touched Me?"*

The disciples are puzzled. The crowd is thick, people are bumping into each other—what do you mean *"Who touched Me?"*

But Jesus wasn't looking for casual contact—He was looking for faith. And she had it. She stepped forward and confessed everything.

Application:

You can be part of the crowd and still miss Jesus. Or, you can reach for Him with faith and experience His healing. Don't be content just being around Jesus—touch Him with faith.

"Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction." (v. 34)

This is the only time in the gospels where Jesus calls someone "Daughter." What tenderness. He restores not just her health, but her dignity.

3. Delayed... But Not Denied (vv. 35–43)

As Jesus is finishing this exchange, messengers arrive. Jairus receives the news every parent dreads:

"Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" (v. 35)

Can you imagine the pain in that moment? Jairus had made it to Jesus, and they were on the way. But now it's too late—or so it seems.

Jesus hears the news and speaks immediately:

"Do not be afraid; only believe." (v. 36)

That word was for Jairus—and it's for us. Even when it looks like all hope is lost, Jesus says: Don't fear. Just believe.

They continue on, but Jesus only allows Peter, James, and John to come with Him. When they arrive, the house is full of loud mourners. Jesus tells them:

"Why all the commotion? The child isn't dead—she's just asleep." (v. 39)

They laugh. But Jesus isn't fazed. He puts them out of the room, takes the child by the hand, and speaks tenderly:

“Talitha, cumi”—*Little girl, I say to you, arise.* (v. 41)

Immediately, she gets up and walks. Jesus even tells them to get her something to eat—practical, compassionate, thoughtful.

Application:

Even death isn’t the end when Jesus speaks. His Word brings life. And in your darkest, most hopeless moments, He still whispers: “Don’t be afraid. Just believe.”

Final Reflection:

Mark 5 is a chapter of extremes:

- A man overtaken by demons,
- A woman quietly suffering in shame,
- A father crushed by the loss of a child.

Three very different situations. One common hope: Jesus.

He brings healing to the hopeless, freedom to the tormented, and life to the dead.

Wherever Jesus steps, He brings restoration.

Ask yourself today:

- Where am I in this story? Am I bound? Bleeding? Desperate?
- Do I believe He can step into my situation?
- Am I willing to tell others what He’s done for me?