PASTOR'S NOTES

The King's Authority Over Spiritual Darkness

Mark 5:1-20

Satan's demons are real and active.

People view demonology in many ways; however, Mark gives us a biblically grounded, balanced understanding.

Jesus knew demons were real, but he did not retreat from them or hesitate to confront them. And in a remarkable show of compassion, King Jesus exercised his authority over a legion of demons to rescue one suffering man.

Christians are not at risk of being possessed like the man in Mark 5. We are no longer under Satan's dominion. (Colossians 1:13) We belong to Christ, and the Holy Spirit dwells within us. That does not mean we are immune to the devil's attacks. He still tempts, deceives, and seeks to undermine believers' lives. Through sin and disobedience, we can give him opportunities to exploit our weaknesses. That is why Scripture repeatedly commands us to remain watchful, resist the devil, and stand firm in the faith.

Satan and his demons seek to degrade and destroy what God created for his glory.

Mark describes a man whose life had been devastated by demonic powers, a legion of demons. The name Legion suggests the vast number of evil spirits that possessed the man. They had driven the man into a miserable existence, stripping away his dignity and distorting the life God had created him to live.

This reveals something about the nature of demons. They hate God and everything about him. They hate his holiness and that mankind is created in his image. Their purpose is to corrupt, degrade, and destroy life.

We see those same destructive purposes reflected today wherever Satan's lies entice people through their flesh to think and act in ways that are in opposition to God—sexual immorality, filthy and obscene language, the prolific use of pornography, the chokehold of addictions, the rise of occult practices, and other forms of sin that dishonor God and devastate lives.

Mark 5 reveals that the forces of evil are far stronger than most people realize. And while this passage describes the destructive power of demons, the Bible also warns us about the progressive and enslaving nature of sin. Sin deceives us, hardens our hearts, and draws us further into disobedience when we refuse to repent.

Don't play around with sin or the evil ways of darkness. Don't think you can embrace sin today and simply walk away from it later. Sin is deceitful and enslaving, pulling you further from the character and holiness God calls you to reflect. Turn from it and walk in the light of Jesus Christ, the only Savior who can deliver us from sin's dominion.

Jesus Christ's authority and power are absolute over every power of darkness.

When Jesus came ashore, the demons recognized his absolute authority over their existence, activities, and ultimate destiny. They not only knew who Jesus was; they knew he possessed the authority to judge them. They couldn't even enter a herd of pigs without his permission.

When Jesus permitted them to enter the pigs, about 2,000 animals rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned. The destruction of the herd is a startling demonstration of these evil spirits' destructive nature. But it also reveals that the demons were entirely subject to Jesus' command.

Think about the contrast. No one could restrain the man, but the demons could not resist Jesus. Clearly, Satan and his demons are created beings, subject to the sovereign authority of the Son of God. This truth gives Christians great assurance. We have no reason to live in fear of Satan or his demons. We belong to the One before whom every demonic power must bow. Yes, Satan is powerful, but he is not sovereign. His demons are dangerous, but they are not almighty. Jesus Christ is Lord over them all.

Jesus Christ's mercy restores the helpless and calls them to bear witness.

All the pigs plunged to their deaths, to the shock of the herdsmen, who ran into the city and countryside to tell all that happened. People came to see what had happened and found the once animalistic, filthy, bleeding, uncontrollable demoniac who lived in the tombs was now sitting calmly, clothed, and in his right mind. Luke adds that he was sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Jesus' authority and power were magnificently displayed. He not only had the authority to command demons; he used his authority to rescue and restore a man no one else could help.

Rather than rejoicing over the man's deliverance, the people begged Jesus to leave their region. They had witnessed Jesus' power, but they didn't welcome his presence. The man had experienced his transformational power, and he wanted to remain with him. But Jesus had something else in mind; he commissioned the man to proclaim what the Lord had done for him.

Two responses we should make to this passage:

1. Come to Jesus, who will rescue and transform you.

2. Follow Jesus in obedience and testify to the mercy you've received.

MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, November 29, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



CONNECT *people to Christ and His church*

MEADOWBROOK'S

Christmas CELEBRATION

THE KING IS COMING

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus—our Savior and King! This year, we're excited to offer three services, including a special matinee, featuring our combined choirs, Orchestra, and Kids Choir. Tickets are $5 each, with all proceeds going to our International Missions Offering.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9 at 6:30 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 1:30 PM
{55+ Lunch Combo option available}

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 at 6:30 PM

Tickets available on the App or mbchurch.com

NEXT STEPS
TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have. (Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com

GROW *them as disciples and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1
9:00 am - Mom Connections - Café '59 & Gym
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Gym
(Teriyaki Wings, Fried Rice, Lo Mein, Eggroll, Dessert or Salad with a Protein; Kids: Hamburgers, Chips, Cookies)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 210
6:30 pm - Business Meeting,
Preschool Christmas Party, KidStuf Christmas Party,
Middle School Worship, High School Worship,
Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3
55+ Tate House Christmas Lunch - Tate, GA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4
Allay Poinsettia Delivery

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a FREE gift!

life group
Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

Nov 29 - Malachi 3:13-18
Nov 30 - Malachi 4
December 1 - Genesis 2-3
December 2 - Genesis 15
December 3 - Genesis 22
December 4 - Genesis 27
December 5 - Genesis 49-50

SERVE *through missions, ministry and worship*

THE WELL mom connections

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 · 9:00 AM at Café '59

Moms are invited to join us for a time of fellowship, devotion, prayer, and a cup of coffee from 9:00-11:00 AM at Café '59. Childcare will be provided in the gym.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 2 • 6:30 PM • Dining Hall

MeadowBrook's 2027 Ministry Plan is available online at mbchurch.com under our "Resources" tab



MeadowBrook gives generously because we desire Christ's Kingdom to bear fruit in our community and around the world. When we give, a portion of every dollar given in the general offering and every dollar given to the International Missions Offering goes directly to the mission field. International Missions offering envelopes are provided in the seat pocketes or you may give online at mbchurch.com

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Tiki Kemp, Anna Rae Wilson, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, Loucille Edge, Linda Dees

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Archie Wade, Landon Cunningham, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Tim Davis, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Larry Parker, Sandra & Wendell Qualls, Aiden Barron, Ruth Ann Stough, Dele Cannon, Larry Moore, Don Garris

- Lane Walker - Children's Hospital
- Judy Bliss, mother of Roy Bliss - Gadsden Regional