

1. Main Points:

- a. Read Mark 5:1-20 – notice the details.
- b. Book of Jubilees (Jubilees 22:16-18)
- c. Rabbinic writing
- c. Actions of the Disciples
 - what does this mean for me?

2. Review of the past four weeks:

- Regions around the lake
- Sea is the Abyss/Enemy of God
- Decapolis: clean vs. unclean
- *Gerash* = to drive out. *Gerushim* = the driven out ones

3. Mark 5:1-20

- Compare **Mark 5:1** with **Luke 8:26** –
 - Luke adds details. Adding details to help the new audience understand what is happening is normal when transcribing ancient documents.
 - When scribes change a document, they tend to “add” and not “remove” details.
- Compare **Mark 5:10** to **Luke 8:30-31** –
 - Notice that in the story, the demons end up going where they belong – the Abyss.
 - It is not merely that they are sent into a “lake” – they are sent home!

4. Swine, demons, and Legion:

- Swine is an unclean food for the Jewish people (Lev. 11:7)
- The pagan nations surrounding Israel would sacrifice pigs to their gods (demons):
 - **1 Maccabees 47** –Antiochus Epiphanies – the Greek king –tried to force the Jewish people to convert. The result of the revolution is the holiday of Channukah.
- **Legion** is a Latin borrow word and has obvious connotations to the **Roman Legions** that occupied Israel's land.
 - The emblem of the 10th Roman Legion¹ (Legio X Fretensis) was a swine.
- After Mark wrote his Gospel, this story would be seen as anti-Roman with the madness of the crazy man as a representation of Rome's madness.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_X_Fretensis

5. **Book of Jubilees** (written ca. 200 BCE – found among Dead Sea Scrolls)

- The book of Jubilees is a paraphrase of the Old Testament.
- The author adds their own interpretation to the story.
- Jubilees 22: 16-18

“Now you, my son Jacob, remember my words and observe the commandments of Abraham your father: **separate from the Gentiles**. Do not eat with them. Do not behave as they do. Do not become their colleague because their deeds are impure. All their ways are polluted, depraved, and detestable. **They offer sacrifices to the dead. They worship demons.** They eat in **tombs**.

Everything they do is in vain and worthless. They have no mind to perceive and their eyes do not see what their deeds are, how they err by saying to a tree ‘you are my god’ or to a stone “you are my lord. You are my deliverer.” **They have no mind.**

6. Rabbinic thought on **Tombs** and those who visit them. Why does Mark repeat the word “tomb?”

One should not ‘spend the night in the **tombs**’ so that an **unclean spirit** may rest on him.

Paraphrase of *Nidah 17a*

7. Where are the disciples?

- Mark 5:2 – “And Jesus got out of the boat...”
- Mark 5:18 – “As Jesus was getting into the boat...”

8. Jesus is breaking the normative rules

- The barrier between Jews and Gentiles is breaking.
- All humanity is created in the Image of God.
- All humanity has the capacity to transform into the image of the Original Adam (1 Cor. 15:49).
- What does that say about us? What are the barriers that we put up in the name of remaining “clean” that Jesus wants us to reach across for the sake of all humanity?