



SOUTHBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Summer at the Lake- Part VII “Leave Me Alone”

Sunday, July 22nd, 2007
Pastor Chris Bechtel

Mark 5:1-17

Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man

1 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes.^[a] 2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil^[b] spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him. 3 This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. 4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. 6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. 7 With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.” 9 Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” 10 Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. 11 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. 12 “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.” 13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water. 14 The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. 15 A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. 16

Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. 17 And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

1. They were _____ with the powerful reality of Jesus Christ.

Madman Moment: We all need “_____” where we encounter God’s presence in a powerful way.

2. They had just suffered _____ with potential for more.

Madman Moment: God _____ gives back more than He takes.

3. They were _____ to change their sinful ways.

Madman Moment: At times God will turn our lives upside down to get our _____.

4. Their _____ lives were being invaded by an extraordinary presence.

Madman Moment: Our faith journey should have seasons of _____.

Madman questions to act on!

In what ways have I told God to “Please go... leave me alone?”
What areas of my life have I compartmentalized God out of?
What areas have I taken control over and told God “I got it”?
