

LORD OVER EVIL

Mark 5:1-20

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE COMPLEXITY OF EVIL
2. THE PATTERN OF EVIL
3. HOW EVIL CAN BE DEFEATED

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. This week's passage had to do with Jesus casting out demons. Our culture is very skeptical of anything supernatural so it is easy to feel strange reading a passage like this. What types of thoughts, questions, or stereotypes come to mind when you hear about demons?
3. The Bible honors the complexity of the challenges we face more than any other literature in human history. For example, Proverbs recognizes that a broken spirit can have causes that are 1) physical 2) emotional/relational 3) moral 4) existential and 5) related to faith. Why is it important to understand this complexity when looking at a passage like Mark 5?
4. Evil can often seem manageable, harmless and maybe even useful to us. But if you follow that path long enough it will destroy you. Have you ever seen evil operate like this in your life? What are some ways we can keep ourselves from going down these paths in the first place? How do we get back on the right path when we realize we are following this pattern?
5. Every one of us has the potential of being mastered by something other than God. Whatever we put at the center of our lives becomes our functional master. What is at the center of your life?
6. The loss of the generational wealth that the pigs represented in Mark 5 shows us that when Jesus deals with the evil in a human's life there is an incredible price to be paid. Do you ever struggle with seeing your value? What does this story from Mark 5 and Jesus' eventual death on the cross show you about your value in God's eyes?

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: Jesus absorbed evil into Himself and took it to the grave so that He could wipe out evil without having to wipe us out.