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The Kingdom of God Manifest in Miracles Mark 4:35-5:43

- The Power of Jesus over the Sea (4:35-41)
- **The Power of Jesus over Demons (5:1-20)**
- The Power of Jesus over Sickness and Death (5:21-43)
 - The Request of Jairus (5:21-24)
 - The Woman with a Hemorrhage (5:25-34)
 - Raising the Daughter of Jairus (5:35-43)

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The Power of Jesus over Demons Mark 5:1-20



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Context and Setting

Region of Gerasenes

Man possessed by an unclean spirit

Uncontrolled behavior in isolation



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The Encounter with Jesus

- The man sees Jesus from a distance, runs and falls at his feet
- The man acknowledges him as Jesus the Son of the Most High God
 - Contrast that with the lack of understanding by the religious leaders of the day!

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The Power of Faith and Healing

- Faith is shown to be the catalyst of healing and restoration
- Despite his condition, the man approaches Jesus with faith
 - Acknowledges his condition
 - Acknowledges Jesus' authority
- Sends the unclean spirits into a nearby herd of pigs
- The significance of the pigs
- The significance of the pigs drowning

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The Reaction of the Witnesses

- The reaction is noteworthy
- Instead of rejoicing at the miraculous healing of a man who had been a terror to the community, the people are afraid
- Underscores the message of the angels to people who are witnessing God's intervention: "Fear not!"
- "Better the devil you know"

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The Request of the Healed Man

- The man, now in his right mind, expresses a desire to follow Jesus
- Jesus instructs him to return to his home and share the story of God's mercy and healing
- Christian mission: tell what Jesus has done! Bear witness to the transformative power of faith and share the message of God's grace with others.

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The "So What?"

- Suffering is universal
- "Everyone you meet is fighting battles you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." -Brad Meltzer
- God is "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 145:8)
- God reaches out to the most marginalized and afflicted
- This story reminds us of the power of faith in healing

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More "So What?"

- The story reminds us of the importance of community and acceptance
- The man is received back into the community. We are called to join with God in reaching out to the marginalized, offering them a sense of belonging.
- The fearful reaction of the witnesses causes us to examine our own response to things that are new or miraculous
- The Holy Spirit's work is often surprising and often new. Sometimes it changes things. Sometimes it changes us!

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