

Mark, The Pursuit (Week 4): Follow

Review:

Week 1: Author of this Gospel account: John Mark

Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission to Jerusalem, they returned, taking John Mark with them.

Week 2: Intent of his account

Mark 1:1 This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.

Week 3: Jesus calling the Twelve to follow Him

Mark 2:14 As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax collector’s booth. “Follow me and be my disciple,” Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

Mark 5:1-20 - Who is the Jesus, we’re following?

Jesus goes to “the other side.”

Mark 5:1-2 ¹So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes. ²When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him.

Background of the area:

Jesus has power over evil.

Mark 5:3-13 ¹³This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. ⁴Whenever 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. ⁵Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones. ⁶When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. ⁷With 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!” ⁸For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.” ⁹Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” ¹⁰Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place. ¹¹There 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.” ¹³So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

1 John 4:4b the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

Jesus has plans for peoples' lives to be changed.

Mark 5:14-20 ¹⁴The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. ¹⁵A 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. ¹⁶Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. ¹⁷And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone. ¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." ²⁰So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

- Not everyone wants the results of Jesus.
 - Jesus has a different plan.
 - The impact isn't over. (Mark 7 and 8)
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Parable of Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-34 ³⁰Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, ³²but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

- 1. What stood out to you from the sermon?**
 - a. How will you respond to what you heard this week?**

*As you read/listen to **Mark 6:1-52**, be thinking about:*

2. What do you see Jesus doing? What are the twelve disciples doing? What are the crowds of people doing?
 3. What are you discovering about Jesus? About people?
 4. Personally, what stands out to you? What is God showing you about you?
 5. Share with someone what you are discovering. Invite them to share what they are learning from God and His word.
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The Book of Mark Reading Plan:

June 3 – June 9: **Mark 6:1-52**

June 10 – June 16: **Mark 6:53-7:23**

June 17 – June 23: **Mark 7:24-8:26**