



FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH | LIFE NOTES

ENCOUNTERS: WEEK 5

SYNOPSIS OF SERIES

Jesus changed the world forever. What he did 2000 years ago in 3 years of ministry is impossible to ignore. What made Jesus so unique? What was it about him that led people to drop everything to follow him? Over the next few weeks we are going to be looking deeply at the book of Mark. We want to invite you and group to take a look at some of the most profound Jesus encounters recorded in Scripture. My prayer is that you would encounter Jesus in a new and fresh way.

GETTING STARTED

The big idea behind Pastor Steve's message this Sunday was this: 'Never underestimate the power of Christ to transform a life'

- Who comes to your mind when you hear the statement: "If Jesus could change his/her life, He can change anybody's life?"

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Mark 5:1-20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

1. What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?
2. How would you describe this man's condition?
3. What do you think it means that the man 'had an impure spirit'?
4. What could have led to this man's descent into darkness?
5. How does this passage illustrate 'the authority of Christ'?
6. Where do you see yourself in this story? (the man, the disciples, the pig-herders, or the townspeople?)

Moving Forward

As a church family, we want to see more life transformation. We'll see more...if we ask for it, expect to see it, and celebrate it when it comes. Take a few moments to recognize the work of Christ in one another's lives...and give thanks.

Prayer

After you look at these questions, pray for one another