

Freed by the Power of Mercy
Mark 5:1-20

"The mercy of God is one of the most precious realities in the world, one of the most revealing themes in all the Bible, and one of the most tragically misunderstood truths about God. If you want to know who God really is, if you want to peek into his heart, it is not the display of his just wrath and cosmic power to which you should look. Rather, set your eye on his mercy, without minimizing the fullness of his might, and take in the life-changing panorama... Our God is not simply sovereign, wonderful as it is to celebrate. And he is not only a God of uncompromising justice, thankful as we are that he is. He is the mercy-having God who invites us to look not only at his awesome authority and sovereign strength, but to set our eyes on his mercy and see into his very heart. Entrust yourself to the God who has mercy." Mathis

- I. One of the Greek words used describe miracles in the New Testament is **dynamis**, which means power. Though the word is not used in the text we are studying, we certainly know that powerful miracles were taking place almost every time Jesus interacted with someone. The primary reason Jesus preformed miracles was to glorify God. The biggest miracle we've encountered for the glory of God is the power of our salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are miracles walking around in an exceedingly dark world because of Jesus' **love**, **grace** and **mercy**. Consequently, we owe everything to him who reached out and gave us grace and mercy when we didn't deserve it.

Colossians 2:13-14

σημείον semeion = a sign, wonder, miracle. that by which a person or a thing is distinguished from others and is known. A sign, prodigy, portent, i.e. an unusual occurrence, transcending the common course of nature of signs portending remarkable events soon to happen, of miracles and wonders by which God authenticates the men sent by him, or by which men prove that the cause they are pleading is God's

John 20:30-31 30 Jesus performed many other miracles that his disciples saw. Those miracles are not written in this book. 31 But these miracles have been written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and so that you will have life by believing in him.

- II. Demons are evil fallen angels who were created for the glory of God but rebelled against him along with the one they follow, Satan. They were cast out of heaven and will one day be cast permanently into the abyss. Meanwhile, they work at oppressing believers, they torment and manipulate mankind, they do everything in their power to thwart God's will, and they take away the seed of the gospel from the hearts of men and women through deception and the wiles of this dark world, all for the expressed purpose of fulfilling the devil's schemes. The evil one cannot harm us (**1 Jn. 5:18**), but that doesn't mean that we don't resist him or that we neglect putting on the full armor of God so that we can stand firmly in the faith.

Mark 5:1-13

Ezek. 28:14-17

Rev. 12:9

Luke 10:18

Eph. 6:10-13

Luke 8:27,31

Matt. 8:29

"God has appointed a day when Satan will be bound and all the forces of hell will be crushed once and for all. Every last demon knows what Satan knows—that their days are numbered. When the Lord comes to draw history to a close, the demonic world will not be able to match His power. It will be no contest. The demons live in mortal fear of that moment in history when all of their diabolical activity will be over once for all."

Sproul

- III. Jesus loves to liberate us from whatever holds us in bondage. There is no power that can supersede his power to set free anyone held in bondage by the demonic influences of the authorities and power of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. The **impact** of the saving power of God's grace and mercy cleanses and protects us from the effects of Satan's influence in our lives. The **force** of the power of Jesus' grace and mercy washes us through rebirth, renews us by the Holy Spirit, gives us life and peace, and awards us dignity and holiness.

Mark 5:14-20

Luke 8:35

Titus 3:4-5

Rom. 8:6

Gal. 3:27

Rom. 10:11

Rom. 6:22

Romans 6:22 *But not that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.*