

Small Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, June 14 ~ Mark 5:1-20

1. This account follows immediately after the calming of the storm. In considering them together, what is similar and what is different?
2. In both stories, the response includes fear. Who is afraid, of what are they afraid and why? How are these fears justified, and how might they not be?
3. What do the pigs represent, and how do you account for their destruction? Does it make a difference that Jesus permitted rather than commanded?
4. Consider the ethics of destroying the pigs in comparison with the value of a person thought to be worthless. Does this satisfy your concerns?
5. If the pigs are understood as both unclean and as part of the economy of Roman oppression, does this change their significance in this story?
6. What does this account reveal about Jesus' authority?
7. Demon affliction or mental illness—either one is a subjection to chaos, an undoing. Is there any degree of affliction that Jesus cannot overcome?
8. The demons address Jesus as “Son of the Most High God.” What significance does this term have in a pantheistic / polytheistic culture? In our culture?
9. The man bore 6000 demons; Jesus bore the sin of humanity. Does this deepen your appreciation for what Jesus carried to the Cross?