

Chapter 5

¹They arrived at the other side of the sea, in the region of the Gerasenes. ²As Jesus left the boat, he was immediately confronted by a man from among the tombs with an unclean spirit.

³This man lived among the tombs, for no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴He had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he would shatter the chains and break the shackles in pieces. No one was strong enough to restrain him. ⁵Throughout the night and day, among the tombs and in the hills, he would scream and cut himself with stones.

⁶Seeing Jesus from afar, he ran and bowed down to him ⁷and screamed, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you by God, do not torment me!" ⁸For Jesus had said to the unclean spirit, "Come out of the man!"

⁹Then Jesus asked it, "What is your name?"

It replied, "My name is Legion, because we are many." ¹⁰And it was earnestly begging him not to send them out of the region.

¹¹On a nearby hillside, a large herd of pigs was feeding. ¹²The demons begged him, "Send us into the pigs, that we might possess them."

¹³Jesus gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd, about 2000 pigs, charged down the steep hill into the sea, where they drowned. ¹⁴Then the herdsmen fled and reported the incident in the town and countryside, and people came to see what had happened.

¹⁵Approaching Jesus, they observed the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons - seated, dressed and in his right mind - and they were frightened. ¹⁶The herdsmen who had seen what had happened to the demon possessed man described it to them in full – including what happened to the pigs. ¹⁷Then they began to plead with Jesus to leave their district.

¹⁸As Jesus stepped into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed pleaded with him that he might be with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not allow him, but said to him, "Go home to your family and tell them everything the Lord has done for you, and how he had mercy on you." ²⁰So he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis everything Jesus had done for him and everyone was amazed.

²¹After Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him while he was beside the sea.

²²Then one of the synagogue elders came, whose name was Jairus. When he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³pleading with him, "My little daughter is near death. Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will be healed and live."

²⁴So Jesus departed with him, but a large crowd was following and jostling him from all sides. ²⁵Then a woman who had a discharge of blood for twelve years entered the crowd. ²⁶She had suffered greatly under the care of many doctors, spending all that she had, but was not helped but grew worse. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up from behind him and touched his garment. ²⁸For she was thinking, "If I just touch his garments I will be healed." ²⁹Immediately her flow of blood dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed from the affliction.

³⁰At the same time, Jesus perceived in himself that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my garments?"

³¹The disciples answered him, "You can see that the crowd is jostling you and yet you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

³²But he kept looking around himself to see who had done this. ³³The woman was trembling with fear. She knew what had happened to her. So, she came and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴But Jesus said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. Be restored to health from your affliction."

³⁵While he was still speaking, messengers of the synagogue elder came and reported, "Your daughter died. Why continue to bother the teacher?"

³⁶But Jesus, deliberately ignoring what they were saying, said to the synagogue elder, "Do not be afraid. Only believe."

³⁷He did not allow anyone to accompany him, except Peter, James and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the synagogue elder, Jesus saw an uproar with loud weeping and wailing. ³⁹When he entered, he said to them, "Why the uproar and weeping? The child did not die but is asleep." ⁴⁰But they ridiculed him.

After casting them all out, he took along the girl's father and mother and those with him and entered where the child was. ⁴¹Then taking the girl's hand, he said to her, "*Talitha kourai*." This means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

⁴²He had hardly finished speaking when the girl stood up and walked around. (She was twelve years old.) They were utterly astonished. ⁴³He then strongly ordered them to let no one know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.