



Jesus Heals the Demoniac

Mark 5:1-20



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*Militie Infernae legio trūcē pulsa probavit,
Vivida quid Christi vox valet efficere.*

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Mark 1:1-20

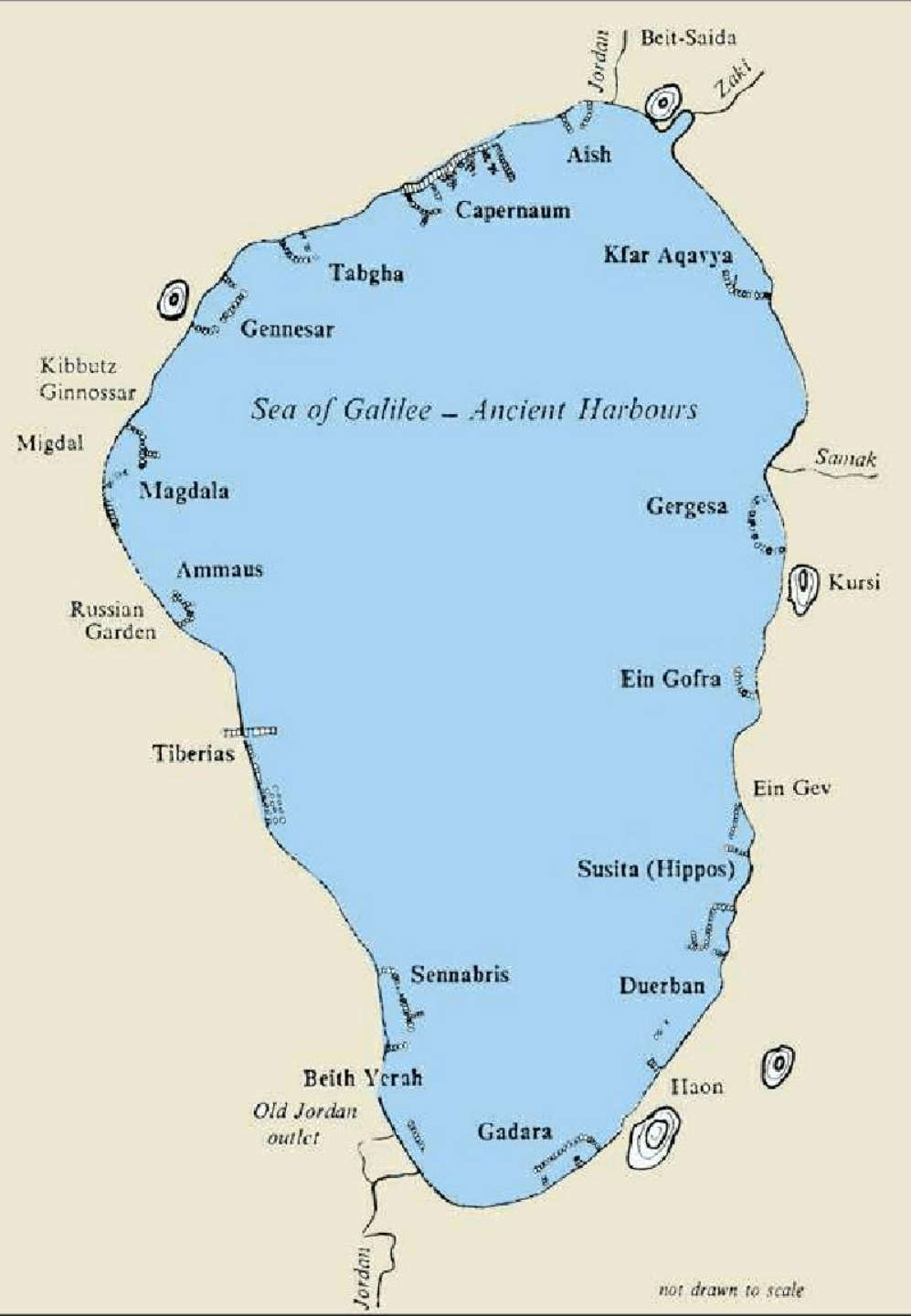
- I. A reaching out by a demoniac (Mark 5:1-13)
- II. A reaction by the townspeople (Mark 1:14-17)
- III. A request by the restored man (Mark 1:18-20)

Ceremonially Unclean

- **An unclean entity:** the demonic spirit (verse 2)
- **An unclean location:** the tombs (verse 3)
- **An unclean dietary item:** pigs (verse 11)

The Sea of Galilee





I. Reaching out by a “demoniac”

Mark 5:1-13

Word of the Day: “Adjure”

- “urge or request (someone) solemnly or earnestly to do something”

A Split-Personality

- A **“split personality”**: the “person-al” is drawn to the grace and goodness of Jesus, while the demons possessing the man cower and try to distance themselves from the holiness of Jesus

Humans are inherently, but not essentially, sinful

- “Sin is not essential, but neither is it merely tangential or on the surface of our humanity. Rather, the portrait that we get in the Scriptures of man in his fallen condition is that he is utterly and thoroughly infected by sin in his whole person. In other words, sin is not an external blemish, but something that goes to the very core of our being.”

(R.C. Sproul, “The Holiness of God and the Sinfulness of Man”)

- “²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23)

Humans inherently know they need a savior,
a.) so they seek out Jesus
b.) because Jesus draws sinners to Him

- “And ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13)
- ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Demons fear Jesus because they reject Love

- “¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” (1 John 4:18)

Demonic Possession

- **a misconception:** We typically give too much credit to Satan and his minions of demons. He is not anywhere near as powerful as God, nor are we defenseless against demonic forces.
- **an exorcism by Paul:** “‘In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!’ At that moment the spirit left her.’ (Acts 16:18)
- **application:** If confronted by a demonic presence, denounce it (shout at it!): “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command you to leave this place!”

Blessings through the name of Jesus

- The apostles Peter and John enter the Jerusalem temple after Pentecost and heal a man who could not walk:
- “And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, ‘Look at us.’ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, ‘I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. ***In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!***” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.” (Acts 3:4-7)

God vs. Satan/demons:

- God creates (Genesis 1)
 - God builds up
 - God loves others
 - God is omnipotent
- Satan destroys
 - Satan tears down
 - Satan despises others
 - Satan is simply manipulative

A fulfilling life in Christ

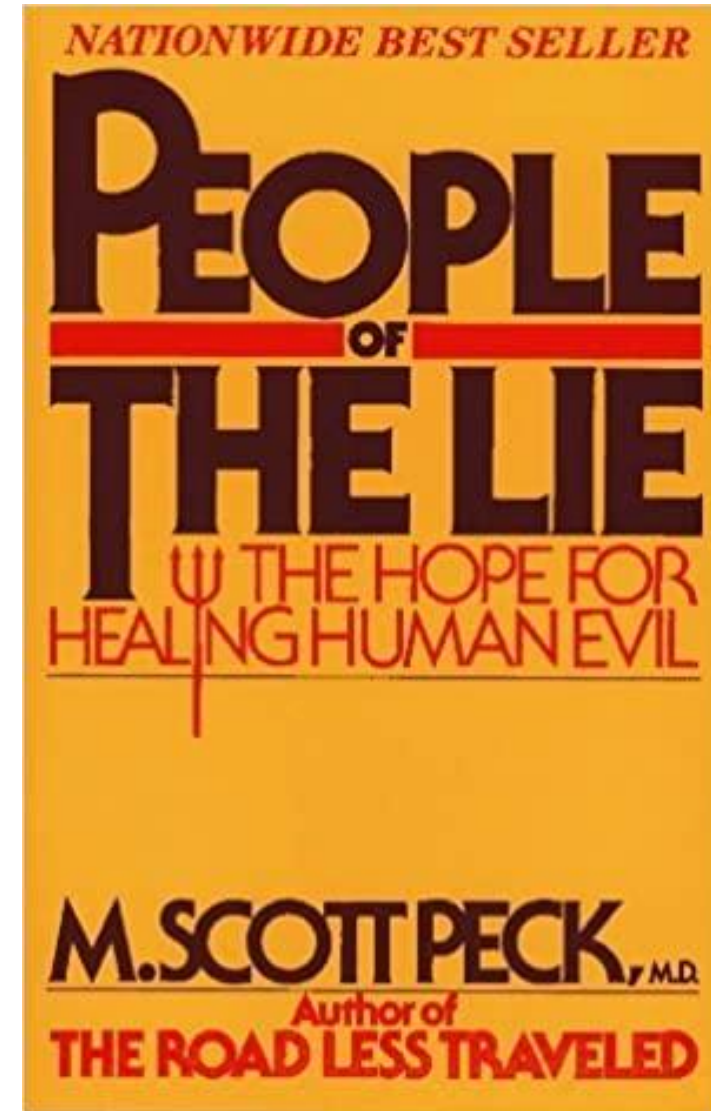
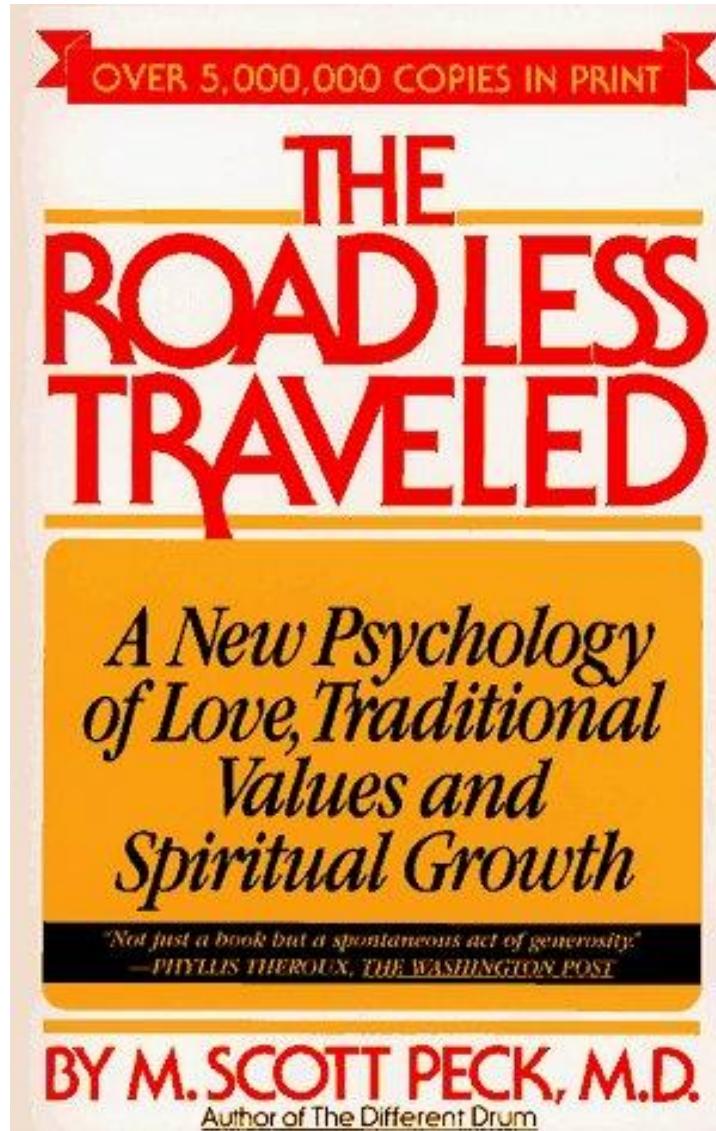
John 10:10

- “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Virtues vs. Vices:

- Virtues mimic God's ways and actions (love, sacrifice, leadership, strength, care, etc.)
- Vices turn us away from replicating God's ways and actions (envy, selfishness, irresponsibility, manipulation, etc.)
- Virtues are (ultimately) satisfying --Vices are (ultimately) unfulfilling
- Virtues free us --Vices imprison us

My late-1980s readings on “Love” and “Evil”



NATIONWIDE BEST SELLER

PEOPLE OF THE LIE

ψ THE HOPE FOR
HEALING HUMAN EVIL

M. SCOTT PECK, M.D.

Author of
THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

Small, poor decisions may lead to awful results

- “We do not become partners to evil by accident. As adults we are not forced by fate to become trapped by an evil power; we set the trap ourselves” (118)
- “Possession appears to be a gradual process in which the possessed person repeatedly sells out for one reason or another” (190)

--M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie*

“Evil” vs. “Goodness”

- “Evil . . . Is that force, residing either inside or outside of human beings, that seeks to kill life or liveliness. And goodness is its opposite. Goodness is that which promotes life and liveliness”

--M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie* (p.43)

Goodness and evil are choices

- “There are only two states of being: submission to God and goodness or the refusal to submit to anything beyond one’s own will—which refusal automatically enslaves one to the forces of evil” (83)

--M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie*

Joshua: Choose Whom You Shall Follow

- ¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:14-15, ESV)

II. Reaction by the townspeople

Mark 1:14-17

- ¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened.
- ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.
- ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs.
- ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region.

II. Reaction by the townspeople

Mark 1:14-17

- Townspeople CHOOSE to reject Jesus
- Even plead with Jesus to leave
- Unable—and more importantly, unwilling—to understand what happened to the demoniac
- Their insistence on keeping things as they are prohibit them from being saved
- Fear of the unknown can be incapacitating
- Small choices may lead to awful consequences

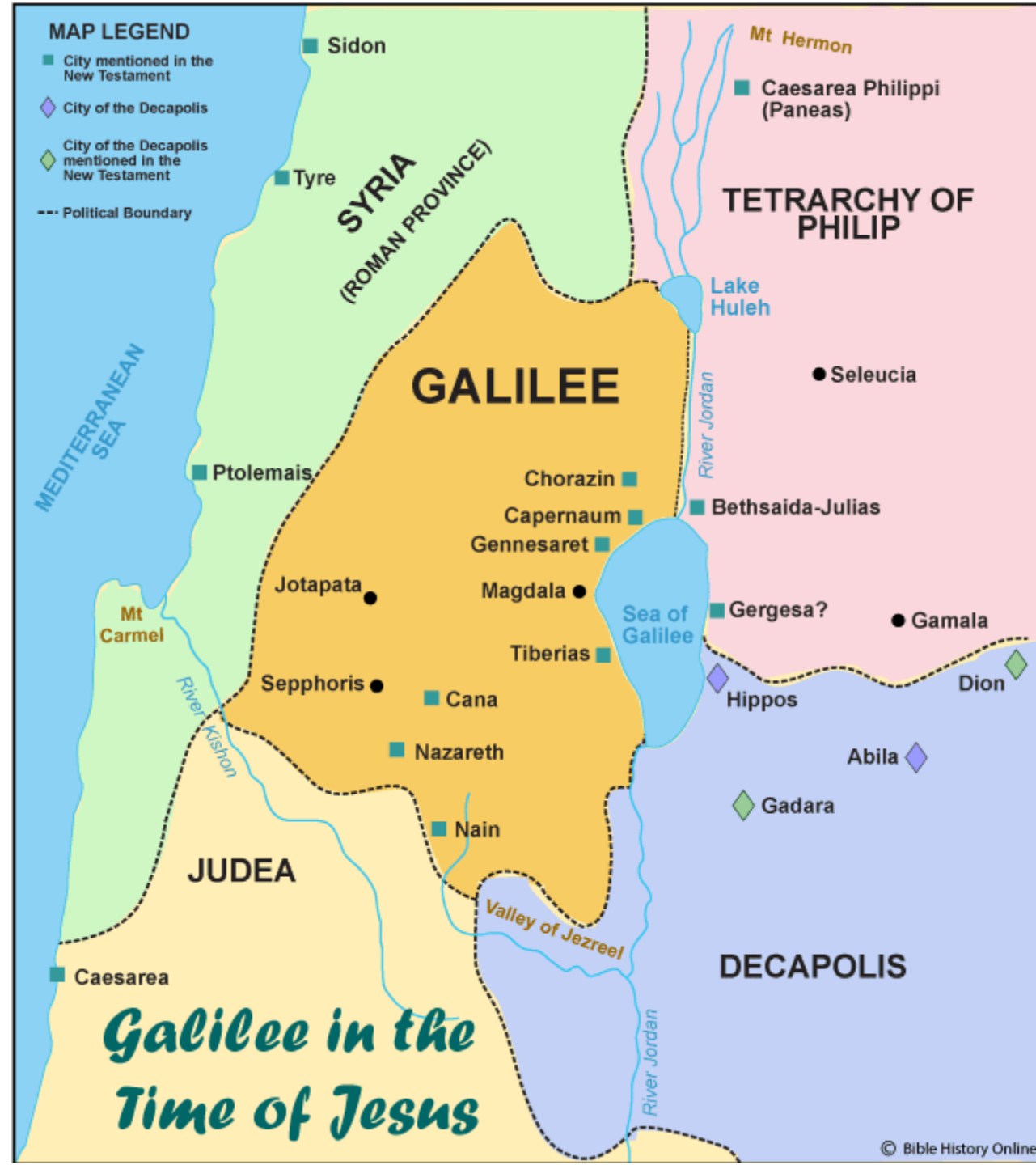
What are your “other gods”?

- The Townspeople:
 - profit/money
 - predictability (the demoniac as “The Other”)
- Today:
 - materialism (“more = better” . . . “name brands”)
 - money (the thirst for more and more)
 - fame (we “idolize” the rich and famous)
 - power (we build up our egos by having power over others)

III. Request by the man

Mark 1:18-20

- ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.
- ¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”
- ²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.



New Life through Jesus Christ

- The man has literally been saved by Jesus
- The man is “humanized” again (Imago Dei)
- When we accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, *we also become more human, which is closer to getting back to the Image of God*

The first evangelist to the Gentiles

- The man desires to follow Jesus
- The man is left there to evangelize the Gentiles
- The man is the first evangelist to the Gentiles (preceding Peter and Paul)
- **application:** the effectiveness of personal testimony when spreading the gospel (the “good news”) of Jesus Christ

Small, righteous decisions lead to awe-inspiring results

- We do not become partners with God by accident. As believers, we are not forced by God to accept His love and offer of salvation; we decide whether to take a step of faith
- We cannot save ourselves
- We cannot even initiate our movement toward God; it must start with God
- “Compatibilism”

A “born-again” experience

- “Conversion to a belief in God generally requires some kind of actual encounter—a personal experience—with the living God” (184)

--M. Scott Peck, *People of the Lie*

Jesus to Nicodemus

(John 3:3,6-8)

- 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
- 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Takeaways

- What are the seemingly “small decisions” that you make?
- Where are they leading you?

Let Us Pray



Let Us Pray

