

# THE FIELD TEST

## MARK 5:1-20



## The Field Test

- Field Test - a test carried out in the environment in which a product or device or person is to be used
  - There comes a time when you must get your hands dirty using the training received
- Jesus has been holding school with His disciples, using parables as His teaching tool
  - Discovered the differences in heart-soil receptivity of God's Word
  - Discovered the seed planted knows what it will produce
  - Discovered the seed begins growth undetected

## The Field Test

- Jesus decides it is time for a field test, and He chooses a Gentile area
  - On the way a severe storm threatens to sink their boat and stop the field test
  - The disciples continue to learn of the absolute authority of their teacher
  - They arrive at the Gentile area and their testing and proving continues

## The Field Test Setup

- **Mark 5:1-5 NIV**, They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 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. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
  - Here is the question Jesus is presenting to His disciples
    - Can the Kingdom of God grow here in this Gentile area, in this deeply heart-soil contaminated hardened man?
  - Is my teaching true even here?

## The Field Test Setup

- **Mark 5:1-5 NIV**, They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. 4 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. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.
  - Do you question your own heart-soil or the heart-soil of someone else and tempted to say, “Useless”
  - Please understand, this is the direction Satan, and this world wants to take your life
    - Not in possession but in destruction and loss

## The Field Test Setup

- Not in possession but in destruction and loss
  - **1st Peter 5:8 TLB**, Be careful—watch out for attacks from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart.
  - **John 10:10 NIV**, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
    - **TLB**, The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.
    - **MSG**, A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

## The Field Test Application

- **Mark 5:6-13 NIV**, 6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 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!” 8 For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”
  - 9 Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.
  - 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” 13 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.

## The Field Test Application

- Here is a picture of the Kingdom of God standing before the Kingdom of Satan
  - This is the same script when presenting salvation through Jesus Christ
  - Notice the authority presented
  - The demons fell at Jesus' feet as a sign recognizing who He is, "the Son of the Most High God" *(Vs. 7)*
    - **James 2:19 NIV**, You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.
  - They prayed for Jesus to have mercy on them
    - "In God's name don't torture me!" *(Vs. 7)*
    - "And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area" *(VS. 10)*



## The Field Test Application

- Jesus gave the demons permission to enter the pigs which promptly killed themselves
  - This is what the possessed man desired
  - Remember Jesus had been teaching His disciples about the power of the Kingdom of God and the reality of a changed life
  - This answers the question, “Are they really gone?”
  - He gives them a visible picture of what spiritually happened to the man possessed
  - How do we know they are really gone?
    - **Micah 7:19 TLB**, You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## The Field Test Analysis

- **Mark 5:14-17 NIV**, 14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 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. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and prepared, about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.
  - The Kingdom of God has come into the possessed man's life
    - He is possessed by a new Master
  - His heart-soil has been prepared, and God's seed is growing rapidly
  - The people saw the man and was afraid – Why?

## The Field Test Analysis

- Give these people a little bit of mercy
  - They didn't have the history of being God's people or His Scriptures
  - They know demon possession and now there appears to be a greater power present, and fear is a logical emotion
  - Then they hear about the pigs, their lively hood and it was just too much for them to comprehend so they asked Jesus to leave

## The Field Test Analysis

- Give these people a little bit of mercy
  - This doesn't bother me as much as when the crowd shouted, **Mark 15:12-14 NIV**, 12 "What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked them. 13 "Crucify him!" they shouted. 14 "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"
  - Or when we say "Crucify him" by failing to receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord

## The Field Test – Jesus Plants A Seed

- **Mark 5:18-20 NIV**, 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 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.” 20 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.
  - Jesus plants a seed of the Kingdom of God in that hard heart-soiled area and it began to grow
  - What did this man know about the Kingdom of God?
    - Was he taught the great spiritual prophecies of the coming Messiah?
    - Was he taught the Roman Road to salvation?
    - Did he go to seminary or have some formal training?

## The Field Test – Jesus Plants A Seed

- **Mark 5:18-20 NIV**, 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 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.” 20 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.
  - “He began to tell how much Jesus had done for him” *(Vs. 19)*
  - This is Jesus’ command to every one of God’s born-again children today
  - That’s all a testimony really is
    - You can’t save anyone so stop putting that pressure on yourself
    - As long as you keep self out of it, you can’t do it wrong

## The Field Test – Jesus Plants A Seed

- **Mark 5:18-20 NIV**, 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 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.” 20 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.
  - It is the Holy Spirit’s responsibility to take your simple words of faith and plant them into their heart
  - “And all the people were amazed” (*Vs. 20*)
  - Well Randy, my testimony is not very good, not very powerful

## The Field Test

- Here is the question Jesus leaves with the disciples and us today, “What will you do now that you know this event? What will you do with it?”
  - Will you continue to say, “Crucify him” and reject Jesus as your Savior and Lord?
  - Will you continue to fail to fully live out the freedom Christ has given you?
  - Or will you fully embrace Jesus as your Lord and Savior by becoming His disciple today in the life He has given you
- **Deuteronomy 30:19 NIV**, 19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.



# THE FIELD TEST

## MARK 5:1-20

