

TWO AGENDAS
MARK 5:1-20



Two Agendas

- Christians we must understand there are two agendas at work in our world today and specifically in your life
- Satan's – **Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV**, 12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world.

Two Agendas

- Satan's – **Isaiah 14:12-14 NIV**, 13 For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. 14 I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'"
 - Destruction of all God has created which He called "very good"
 - **2nd Corinthians 11:14 NLT**, Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (*Evil masquerades as good*)

Two Agendas

- God's – **Revelation 21:5-6a NLT**, 5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true." 6 And he also said, "It is finished!"
 - This is why the Son of God came
 - **John 1:5 AMP**, 5 The Light shines on in the darkness (*evil*), and the darkness (*evil*) did not understand it or overpower it or appropriate it or absorb it [and is unreceptive to it].

Two Agendas

- We see evil creeping into our area with ever increasing frequency and power
- We see the effects in the news casts and wonder what is happening to our world
- Is there any hope for me in this evil world?
- The wonderful thing about Jesus' time on earth is He clearly presented these two agendas and what the outcome will be for those who accept and follow Him
- **Mark 5:1-20**

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- **Mark 5:1 NLT**, 1 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gerasenes.
- What had happened the day and evening before?
 - So many people Jesus had to get in a boat and get away from shore so they could hear Him and for His safety
 - There was a massive storm and Jesus rebuked it
 - The mindset of the disciples in **Mark 4: 41 NIV**, They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- **Mark 5:2-5 NLT**, 2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by (*completely given over to the control of*) an evil spirit came out from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain. 4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- We have here a picture of the ultimate goal of Satan - to completely destroy everything God said is good
 - **John 10:10 NIV**, The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy
- Our world makes fun of the idea of an evil identity called Satan
 - We picture him in red, with horns and a tail, really just a figment of our imagination to deal with things we don’t understand

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- Our world makes fun of the idea of an evil identity called Satan
 - But Jesus came to earth stated in **1st John 3:8 NLT**, “The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.”

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- A man lived in the burial caves (*graveyard*), unrestrainable, unsubduable, restlessly wandering, howling in fear and frustration, while cutting himself to relieve the torment
 - There is only one word to describe this man - hopeless beyond human help
- How did he get here? What act of evil was so bad this was the result?
 - One small step at a time with ever increasing intensity and swiftness

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- What had Satan taken from this man or what had this man surrendered to Satan?
 - Everything that was good
- Understand he was no different than you or me when it comes to freeing ourselves from sin, we might look better, smell better, or act more civilized but just as hopeless
- Jesus is using a life parable to teach us truth

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- **Mark 5:6-8 NLT**, 6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him. 7 With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!” 8 For Jesus had already said to the spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”
 - This man was not lost to Jesus

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- There is no doubt who has the authority here but notice the demon is attempting to negotiate the terms of obedience
 - “Why are you interfering with me (*and the work assigned us*)?”
 - NIV, “What do you want with me?”

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- Jesus had said, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.” – but it was not obeyed
 - It could have been “Come present yourself to me.” – that was obeyed
- The demon identifies the position of Jesus – Son of the Most High God (*at this time*)
- They beg Jesus for mercy - since that is what they have been showing this man

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- **Mark 5:9-10 NLT**, 9 Then Jesus demanded, “What is your name?” And he replied, “My name is Legion, because there are many of us inside this man.” 10 Then the evil spirits begged him again and again not to send them to some distant place.
 - Jesus demanded and the evil spirits obeyed immediately
 - Was this because Jesus did not know?
 - This was for the disciples and us
 - He is showing us the ultimate desire of Satan in our lives - evil

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- Once again, they begged Him continuously not to send them away to the place
- Luke tells us they requested not to be sent to the “abyss” (*Luke 8:31*)
- Literally means “bottomless” and refers to the place where the unrighteous await final judgement (*Revelation 9*)

Two Agendas – Satan's Agenda

- Why do we need to know this?
- Jesus uses parables and life experiences to teach us spiritual truth
- What happens in the spiritual greatly affects the physical

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- **Mark 5:11-13 NLT**, 11 There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. 12 “Send us into those pigs,” the spirits begged. “Let us enter them.” 13 So Jesus gave them permission. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of about 2,000 pigs plunged down the steep hillside into the lake and drowned in the water.

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- Notice the evil spirits are still negotiating the terms of leaving
- Jesus had to give them permission to enter the pigs
- Jesus answers their pleading or prayer for mercy by giving them what they think they want
- To demonstrate the horrors of sin set loose in a life

Two Agendas – Satan’s Agenda

- The evil spirits physically left the man but how do we know? Where is the proof?
- For those who think all evil spirits in Scripture were mental illness issues
 - His mental issues caused a horrific response in the pigs
-  That was just 1:25, I have a sense the sounds in Hell is not much different but eternal
- Satan’s agenda exposed

Two Agendas – Jesus' Agenda

- **Mark 5:14-17 NLT**, 14 The herdsmen fled to the nearby town and the surrounding countryside, spreading the news as they ran. People rushed out to see what had happened. 15 A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons. He was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. 16 Then those who had seen what happened told the others about the demon-possessed man and the pigs. 17 And the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

Two Agendas – Jesus' Agenda

- Here we see Jesus' agenda for mankind, for you
 - Sitting – At peace under the control of Jesus
 - Fully clothed – Accepted, fully clothed in the authority of Jesus
 - Perfectly sane – Mind restored and secure under the truth of Jesus Christ

Two Agendas – Jesus’ Agenda

- Here we see Jesus’ agenda for mankind, for you
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17 NIV**, “17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – Was he a new creation?
 - **John 8:36 NIV**, “36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” – Was he set free?

Two Agendas – Jesus' Agenda

- Here we see the response of the world to Jesus
 - The people were afraid, awe-struck but unrepentant because of fear
 - This is what happens when you tell your story, and it is rejected
 - They are afraid and choose to reject Jesus

Two Agendas – Jesus’ Agenda

- **Mark 5:1-20 NLT**, 18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. 19 But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.” 20 So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

Two Agendas – Jesus' Agenda

- Here we have another prayer to Jesus or asking Jesus for something
- This man was so possessed with appreciation now he just wanted to be close to Jesus – honorable
- He is still possessed but with appreciation and love for Jesus
- He fully understood what Jesus had done in his life and he just wanted to stay close to Him

Two Agendas – Jesus' Agenda

- Jesus answered the prayers or begging of the evil spirits with “Yes”
- He answered this man's prayer with “No”
- You must leave the response to your prayers in God's hands

Two Agendas – Jesus’ Agenda

- Jesus told him to “go home” – what would that be like for his wife and children, parents, those who had given up on him?
- His message was to tell everything the Lord did in his life and the mercy he has been given
- Jesus was asked to leave but he left His presence in the man whom He healed

Two Agendas

- While Jesus walked this earth demonic activity was high as Satan was attempting to hinder the work of God
 - We see it in the slaughter of innocent boys when Jesus was born
 - We see it in the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness
 - We see it in the thousands of afflicted individuals coming to Jesus
 - We see it in the crucifixion of Jesus
 - We see it in the persecution of the early church

Two Agendas

- I believe we will see this more and more in our world as the time of Jesus' return gets closer
- **Matthew 24:6-8 NLT**, “6 And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. 7 Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. 8 But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.”

Two Agendas

- Jesus tells us not to panic because He is in control
- There are two agendas being presented in your life
- Instead of panic we are to simply trust in His authority and tell our story of the mercy we have received from God's hand

Two Agendas

- Please understand he was no different than you or me when it comes to freeing ourselves from sin, we might just look better
- You must be set free like this man and the only authority that can do that is found in Jesus Christ
- **Romans 8:1 NLT**, “1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”

TWO AGENDAS
MARK 5:1-20

