

Jesus Helps People Who Struggle

Mark 5:1-20 (TPT) They arrived at the other side of the lake, at the region of the Gerasenes. ² As Jesus stepped ashore, a demon-possessed madman came out of the graveyard and confronted him. ³ The man had been living there among the tombs of the dead, and no one was able to restrain him, not even with chains. ⁴ For every time they attempted to chain his hands and feet with shackles, he would snap the chains and break the shackles in pieces. He was so strong that no one had the power to subdue him. ⁵ Day and night he could be found lurking in the cemetery or in the vicinity, shrieking and mangling himself with stones! ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran to him and threw himself down before him, ⁷ screaming out at the top of his lungs, "Leave me alone, Jesus, Son of the Most High God! Swear in God's name that you won't torture me!" ⁸ (For Jesus had already said to him, "Come out of that man, you demon spirit!") ⁹ Jesus said to him, "What is your name?" "Mob," he answered. "They call me Mob because there are thousands of us in his body!" ¹⁰ He begged Jesus repeatedly not to expel them out of the region. ¹¹ Nearby there was a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside. ¹² The demons begged him, "Send us into the pigs. Let us enter them!" ¹³ So Jesus gave them permission, and the demon horde immediately came out of the man and went into the pigs! This caused the herd to rush madly down the steep slope and fall into the lake, drowning about two thousand pigs! ¹⁴ Now, the herdsmen fled to the nearby villages, telling everyone what they saw as they ran through the countryside, and everyone came out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they found Jesus, they saw the demonized man sitting there, properly clothed and in his right mind. Seeing what had happened to the man who had thousands of demons, the people were terrified. ¹⁶ Those who had witnessed this miracle reported the news to the people and included what had happened to the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they asked Jesus to leave their region. ¹⁸ And as Jesus began to get into the boat to depart, the man who had been set free from demons asked him, "Could I go with you?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered, "No," but said to him, "Go back to your home and to your family and tell them what the Lord has done for you. Tell them how he had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man left and went into the region of Jordan and parts of Syria to tell everyone he met about what Jesus had done for him, and all the people marveled!

1. Jesus is _____ to people who struggle.

Mark 4:35-36 (NIV) That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

Mark 5:21 (NIV) When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

Psalms 34:18 (NIV) The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

2. The _____ of our struggles never intimidates Jesus.

3. Jesus has the _____ to _____ our struggles.

4. Jesus uses healed strugglers to help _____ other strugglers.

Mark 5:18-20 (TPT) And as Jesus began to get into the boat to depart, the man who had been set free from demons asked him, "Could I go with you?" Jesus answered, "No," but said to him, "Go back to your home and to your family and tell them what the Lord has done for you. Tell them how he had mercy on you." So the man left and went into the region of Jordan and parts of Syria to tell everyone he met about what Jesus had done for him, and all the people marveled!

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (TLB) What a wonderful God we have—he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.