

April 17 | Sunday
The God of Second Chances:
“The Man Who Lived Among the Tombs”



11 | Mon – One Sunday in church... | Read [Mark 1:21-26, 32-34](#)

In Jesus' day, most of our current medical and psychological insights into human pain did not exist. Many ills like epilepsy were called demon possession. On the other hand, nothing we know about mental illness or epilepsy would lead a person to rightly identify Jesus as "the Holy One from God." No matter how much or how little we believe in literal demons, the reality is that humans need emotional and mental healing, as much as they need physical healing. What hurts do you bring to Jesus today? He is your Healer.

12 | Tue – A hopeless case | Read [Mark 5:1-5](#)

The man in today's account seemed beyond hope and beyond help. It is difficult to imagine someone more in need of a miracle than this person. Is there someone you know who seems to be beyond help, someone who is avoided by others? Do you believe that God would work a miracle in this person's life because you had the faith to pray for one?

13 | Wed – No contest | Read [Mark 5:6-13](#)

Whenever Jesus confronted demons who spoke through the person Jesus was healing, they always acknowledged who He was and cowered before Him. These encounters forcefully remind us that Jesus has the power to defeat any kind of evil, even as strong as a legion (term for 6,000 Roman troops). Where in your world do you see evil at work? When you pray in the name of Jesus for that evil to be broken, there is no stronger force!

14 | Thu – Really?! | Read [Mark 5:14-17](#)

Imagine how amazed and happy you would be to see a mentally ill neighbor sitting "fully dressed and completely sane" but sadly that was not the case for this man's neighbors. They were so upset about the loss of their livestock that they begged Jesus to leave town. Apparently the value of some ham or bacon far outweighed seeing a man restored to life and health. Are we sometimes more concerned with what we have lost than what someone else has gained?

15 | Fri – Share the wealth | Read [Mark 5:18-20](#)

Naturally the man who was healed wanted to stay with Jesus, his liberator, but he was told to go home and tell everyone how much God had done for him. Any kind of healing God gives to us is never just for our own benefit. He takes great joy in making us healthy but He also wants us to help restore others to health. Give away what you have received!

16 | Sat – Jesus knows and offers help | Read [Matthew 4:23-24; 11:28-30](#)

No matter what burden you are carrying - physical, mental or emotional - Jesus speaks to those painful realities in your life. "You will find rest for yourselves. My yoke is easy and my burden is light." He knows the places where you struggle and are carrying a heavy load. Allow His love and power to lighten your burdens today.

April 17 | Sun – The God of Second Chances: The Prostitutes in Jesus' Life



Hastings United Methodist Church