



## **Gary Inrig – The Miracles (Power Encounter)**

*Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Stood Out To You – and “Why? (Something strike you - strange – new or different?)*

### **Week 7 – Read Chapter Seven – Power Encounter - The Gadarene Demonic**

**This Week - Read – Mark 5:1-20**

**\*Leader NOTE:** Before beginning it is always good to see if there are any immediate prayer needs among the group and be sure to include within opening prayer. Remind all too that ... *“What we say here stays here” so there is freedom in sharing – we are all learning from each other and from the Holy Spirit together – “Iron sharpens Iron” (Proverbs 27:17)*

**Opening Prayer:** Lord – God ...bless our time together – show us – what You would want us to see and to hear what it is You are saying to us – and to understand what to do practically – how all of this might apply in our lives -for that is the purpose of being a student of You! We pray this in Jesus name! Amen!

**Overview:** This Chapter explores Jesus' absolute authority over supernatural forces - with the deliverance of the Gadarene demoniac. Gary points out how the disciples' understanding of Jesus deepened through these miracles. He had just calmed the storm and sea in the previous Chapter of Mark (Chapter 4) – and here we see that they land – in the land of the Gadarenes (Gerasenes). Unlike human heroes whose blemishes we can clearly see –as we get “close up” (*familiarity breeds contempt*) - Jesus grew greater in the disciples' eyes the more they witnessed His power. Jesus has complete sovereignty over the forces of nature, the demonic realm, and human brokenness. Gary reminds - that we are able to (*as believers*) live confidently in Christ's authority rather than in fear of our circumstances, the great unknown, human opinion and any type of spiritual opposition. We are to engage boldly in mission, trusting in Jesus as Lord of Lords and King of Kings, even in an increasingly anti-Christian culture.

- **Jesus's Authority** - Unlike human heroes who diminish in our eyes the closer we get - Jesus grows greater as we get to know Him more intimately.
- **The Powers of Darkness** -Are real ... but defeated - We must avoid two errors: dismissing demons as merely superstition or becoming unhealthy obsessed with them.
- **Transformation Comes** through an encounter with Jesus - The demoniac went from violent and isolated to "clothed and in his right mind."
- **We're Called** to testify first where we are - Jesus sent the healed man back to his community rather than allowing him to follow as a disciple.

***“It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out.”- Screwtape – From Screwtape Letters – C.S. Lewis***

**Read together – Mark 5:1-20**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever met someone famous or admired from a distance, (*put up on a pedestal*) only to find out as you really got to know them ... that they were only - “human” too? 😊 How did that change your perspective?

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2. Why do you think Jesus took His disciples into Gentile territory? The land of the Gadarenes (or Gerasenes) in **Mark 5** is located on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, a region {**Decapolis**} populated by Gentiles – a portion of which today is Jordan. The large herd of **swine** (*unclean to Jews*) and also this man living among the **tombs** – indicates this was Gentile-territory & outside Jewish jurisdiction. Why do you think Jesus chose this area to cross over to? What might He had been preparing them for?

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3. What does the demon's response to Jesus ("*What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?*") reveal about spiritual forces' knowledge of Christ's identity and authority?

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4. Gary - concludes the chapter by pointing out the prevalence of “strong tides of anti-Christian pressures” in our society. How can we - move boldly forward to complete our mission and not to retreat in fear”?

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5. The healed man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus sent him home to testify. Why do you think He did this?

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*“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue [which] rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] from Me,” Says the LORD.” -*  
**Isaiah 54:17**



## Things to Do this Week - Try to Put At Least One Into Practice

**Fear Inventory-** List the top 3 fears or anxieties that seem to stalk you - and for each one, write out a truth about Jesus' authority that counters that fear (use scripture) -Pray through these meditations daily, asking God to replace fear with faith and His promises.

**Feel. Felt. Found: Testimony Prep.** - Write out your "before and after" in a brief paragraph or two to tell your story- like the healed demoniac. What a testimony he had. I like the model of "Feel" – "Felt" – Found"! **#1.** I understand how you feel – I used to **FEEL** the same way – and **#2. I FELT:** *(you know ... someday I'll get right with God – but I was living for me, I didn't need God, or I was trapped in (name the sin) .... or ... I was doing ok you know but I felt empty inside, I felt stressed all the time - etc.[whatever it was for you], but here's what- #3. I FOUND* – I got to the end of my rope/I couldn't do this life anymore/I had a \_\_\_\_\_ ..... ? (Name the thing that happened to you – that – caused you to cry out to Jesus? – So when I turned to the Lord/Prayed to Him/surrendered my pride ... The Lord took me in and brought me peace – I can't explain it – but I know it's true – It's not that I don't have problems any longer – but now – somehow –I have this peace inside – joy I never had, etc. ... (tell them how you feel now)"

... These are only thought starters for you – write out how you used to feel and how you feel now. Before and After. Jesus hasn't called you to argue anyone into the Kingdom – He's only called you to be a witness. See this week who God places in your life – to share it with and to Bloom where He Has Planted You! Try - "Feel Felt Found".

**Closing Prayer:** *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please pray on your own as the Holy Spirit leads)*

*-Note: If there are any needs that have arisen during the study tonight – lift these up - especially.*

*Thank You Lord Jesus for Your supreme authority over all powers—and principalities... Forgive us for allowing any fears or preconceived notions to control what we think – do – or say – instead of relying upon You and Your Power! Lord, we lift up any and all who are in spiritual bondage—whether obvious sins or not, any addictions - besetting sins - or any other form of satan's darkness. Give us Your sincere boldness to share our story for Your Glory, we thank You and praise You - in Jesus name amen!*