

# BREAKTHROUGH

S T O R I E S O F R A D I C A L C H A N G E

For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" Mark 5:8

## Announcement

July 19 (Sun) Food Collection for *Mission Teens*

July 12 (Sun) Chic Jansky's Birthday  
Johnny & Rosalie Hymer's Anniversary

July 20 (Mon) Adam Giocondo's Birthday  
Melissa Davis' Birthday

July 24 (Fri) Jeff Creamer's Birthday  
Richard Kurtz's Birthday

July 26 (Sun) Jane Mihalecz's Birthday

## Opening Hymn (UMH 133)

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms (<https://youtu.be/zrSE6GRJ3Rk>)

## Call to Worship

In the midst of strife, God is with us!

**Come, O Lord, and pour your word into our hearts.**

In the anguish and grief of everyday living, God is with us!

**Hear our cries, O Lord, and quiet our spirits!**

Come, let us open our hearts and spirits to the Lord.

**We come, with confidence and hope in the presence of God.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise (UMH 397)

I Need Thee Every Hour (<https://youtu.be/yRRmNW4LLfk>)

## Morning Prayer

Lord, we wonder about you. We look around us at the mighty power and majesty of nature, and it is easy for us to sing songs of praise for your creation. But then we look at the ways in which people treat one another. Too often, lying and cheating are touted as the ways in which we should live. We see deceit and anger, hostility and hatred, and we wonder where the visions of the angels descending and ascending are today. We long for times of peace and joy yet are drawn into the horrors of the world. Be with us, Lord. Help us see and feel your presence in our lives. Help us place our trust in you. For there is much work to be done in your world, and you have called us to this work. Guide our steps and guard our lives. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

## Psalter Reading

Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24 \_ UMH 854

## Scripture Reading

Mark 5:1-20

## Message

**"Breakthrough \_ Let Christ Control Over Your Life"**

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/thegroveschurches/>)

Website (<https://groveschurches.org/>)

## Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed \_ UMH 881

## Offering

\*Offering (CHECK) by mail to:

UGUMC \_ Krissi Reed (50 Burt St, Bridgeton NJ 08302)

WGUMC \_ Cheryl Fox (1940 Coles Mill Rd, Franklinville NJ 08322)

\*\*Offering by ONLINE:

<http://www.gnjumc.org/onlinegiving> Or <http://groveschurches.org>

UGUMC Church number: 9068 (Norma)

WGUMC Church number: 9071 (Pittsgrove)

## Closing Song

Our God (<https://youtu.be/01Yj7H-eSjM>)

## Benediction

**[PRAYER REQUEST] \_ Let us pray together.**

**1. For all the congregation of Groves Ministries.**

Lord, surround us with Your divine hedge of protection. Encompass us round about with Your strength and Your might. May You shelter us, that those who love Your name may exult in You.

**2. For our nation and the world.**

Lord, we pray for our nation and the whole world during the pandemic. Grant Your peace, Your comfort, and Your healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

# "LET CHRIST CONTROL OVER YOUR LIFE"

For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" Mark 5:8

**BREAKTHROUGH**

In Mark 5, we're told about a man who was possessed by many demons. The text says the name of the cohort of demons is Legion (Mark 5:9). No further explanation is needed, because Mark is a Gospel for a gentile audience. Further, this story takes place in the region of the Gerasenes, which was primarily Roman occupied, with little Jewish presence. Thus, readers would have understood that a legion in a Roman army consisted of about four to six thousand men. Imagine that!

What could being controlled by many demons do to a person? Well, the text gets quite specific. The man lived in the graveyard (v. 3), probably because society didn't know what to do with him, and because it would have been a location apart from people. Local powers must have tried to restrain him, because the text says that not even chains could hold him down (v. 3). It's safe to say he was quite strong (v. 4). He was constantly inflicting harm on himself with rocks and stones (v. 5). He was mentally gone and couldn't stand wearing clothes (v. 15). What a horrifying way to live!

Note the contrast between Jesus and the demons—and what happens when Jesus enters a life. First, Jesus had just demonstrated in Mark 4 that he has power over the weather. People fear the weather because we have absolutely no control over it. Many of the disciples were fisherman and were used to bad weather on the sea, so a storm that so unnerved them must have been a really bad one. When Christ demonstrated his power over the elements, however, his disciples feared Jesus more than they did the elements that they had just been so frightened about (4:41). Second, once the demons saw Jesus, they made the man they were possessing fall to the ground in great fear (5:7). Third, Jesus gave the demons permission to do something, demonstrating that they answered to him (vv. 10–12). They had no control over him or the man they were possessing once they encountered Jesus.

The result of this man's life being changed was that he wanted to travel with Jesus (Mark 5:18). He was instantly and noticeably changed. In fact, the townspeople couldn't believe it. They were no longer scared of this man—but Jesus's power made them tremble (v. 15). Though they foolishly chased Jesus out of town, Jesus wanted the changed man to be a light and testimony for him throughout that entire dark region of the Decapolis. What have you been doing since your breakthrough?

When Jesus changes someone's life, there should be even greater excitement: a life was just taken from broken to healed, from lost to found, from enslaved to free. That must be how this man felt. He was so eager to tell people about his changed life.

## **\*\*Some questions to think about:**

What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?

Why is it important to give Christ control over our life?