

2009

Campbell Chapel Free
Will Baptist Church

Bob Bradley

Who Controls You?

CAMPBELL CHAPEL FWBC - SERMON

Who Controls You?

April 19, 2009

Bob Bradley

Mark 5:1-20

- 1 *And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.*
- 2 *And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,*
- 3 *Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:*
- 4 *Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.*
- 5 *And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.*
- 6 *But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him,*
- 7 *And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.*
- 8 *For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.*
- 9 *And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.*
- 10 *And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.*
- 11 *Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.*
- 12 *And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.*
- 13 *And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.*
- 14 *And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.*
- 15 *And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.*
- 16 *And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.*
- 17 *And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.*
- 18 *And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.*
- 19 *Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.*
- 20 *And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.*

We covered this many months ago, in our Wednesday night service. As we had studied and been thinking and praying; the Lord impressed to us some things about this scripture that we need to talk about. So we are going to do that tonight with the Lord being our helper.

This event happens after Jesus—we know that He had been doing some great things. We know that He has just come across the Sea of Galilee. We know that there has been a terrible storm. We know that the Bible says, when you read it, that He's been in the back part of the ship asleep on a pillow. The disciples think that they are going to perish. They think that they are going to drown. They go back and wake up Jesus. He speaks some words.

I never really thought about this until today. The same words that He spoke here to calm the storm on the sea are the same words that He used to cast out the demons. He can do that. Can't He? Whatever He deems to do, He can do that. That is just a little food for thought and we will talk about that in a few minutes.

They come across the Sea of Galilee. They come to the south-eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. They come, the Bible says, "...into the country of the Gadarenes." The scripture mentions some different names for it and there were some reasons for that. As you read also, Mark mentions that there was one demon possessed fellow. Matthew says there were two. However, when Jesus comes over into the land of Gadara; He comes over here and the Bible tells us something here that we want to look at.

2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

When we look at the book of Matthew, we know that there were two of them. We know that there were two men here. One was probably more vocal than the other. One may have been more demon-possessed than the other. Be that as it may, Mark mentions one of them.

The Bible says here, Mark mentions here—when the ship gets here—now this is a good thought that I never thought of either until today. When He gets to the land of Gadara, do you know where He lands at? He lands at a graveyard. He lands here at a graveyard. His boat comes ashore at a graveyard. During this time and around this area, they would have their graveyards way out in the country. They would have them out in the suburbs. You have heard me say many times, in the land of Israel and in this area there are all kinds of limestone. They would go out and hew out their burial places out of solid limestone; as they did for Jesus.

Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body to a newly hewed tomb; hewed out of limestone.

Here they are. This is where Jesus' boat landed at. It hit land in the graveyard. You keep that thought in your mind because I think that is important on what we are going to talk about tonight. It is a wonderful thing. When we go out a burry people, when we get ready to let the casket down into the grave; we have went as far as we can go. We have gone with this individual as far as we can go. We can't go to the grave with them but we have gone as far as we can go. Isn't it a great thing—do you know what

Jesus does? Jesus can go farther than what man can go. He is coming to a graveyard here. That did not bother Him any. That did not bother Him any at all.

I thought about the graveyard. It is a place where people are buried. It is a place where dead people are at. It is a place where people have died and corruption has set in and there are all kinds of dead men bones around there. Do you know what most people don't do? They don't spend a whole lot of time in the graveyard. You don't go out and get a picnic lunch and go down by the tombs. You just don't do that. However, do you know what Jesus does here? He lands the ship here.

2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

Do you know what I begin to think about this fellow here? I begin to think about where this guy lived at. When you read the scriptures, the graveyard was his home; a place of death, a place of darkness. This is where this guy lived. This is what he called home. Could you imagine how lonely this guy must have been and how miserable he must have been living in the graveyard? He was staying in the tombs. Listen, we want to understand something tonight.

It does not matter how dark our lives may get. It does not matter how far down in sin we may go. Jesus Christ is still yet the answer. He is meeting a guy here in the graveyard. The Bible says that he is possessed with an unclean spirit. I want to talk about just for a moment tonight. In our spiritual realm there are people today who are possessed and controlled by the spirit of Almighty God. We know that don't we? If you have been saved, we know that the Spirit of God controls people's lives. We also know that some people's lives are controlled more by the Spirit of God than others. Do you know what makes the difference there? Some people will allow the Lord to have more control in their lives than other people will. However, in the same sense, there are people that are being controlled by satan. The Bible says that this fellow here was possessed with an unclean spirit. We know that he was possessed with the enemy. He was possessed with the devil. This guy was in bad shape. You might say, "Well, we don't understand that." I may not understand everything about it but I can look around in the world that we live in and see people who are controlled by satan. Do you know what you don't do? You can't take an individual and tell me that they are not possessed by demons, if they go out and kill children or do all kinds of things. Do you know what it is? We call it SIN and it is that. However, do you know what is happening? They have surrendered their lives over to satan and satan has taken control. When they interview some of these guys on TV who are mass murderers; they have killed women. They have killed children. They have killed innocent people. There is no remorse there. Do you know why? It is because there is a spirit living within them that wants to destroy people.

satan is real tonight. Do you know what he is doing? He is out destroying people's lives. Don't make any mistake about it. In the world that we are living in today, we are seeing sorcery come back into its own. Many years witchcraft was a big thing. However, it sort of died out for a while, but in the day and time that we are living in now we are seeing witchcraft come back on. Just look at your TV is all you have to do. You can see numbers to call and they will tell you what your future holds. Listen tonight friend, there is no one on the phone who can tell you what your future is. However, there is One sitting

in heaven tonight. He is sitting on the right side of Almighty God. He knows what your future is and He will bless you. He'll save you. He'll keep you if you just let Him. Isn't that awesome to just think about? Jesus is real; however, just as real as Jesus is satan is also. People gives satan more control of their lives than some other people do.

There are people today whose lives are out of control. Their lives are out of control simply because they have given satan a little bit of room in their lives, and then they give him a little bit more and a little bit more. He just continues to take and take and take. That happens to people. In a world that is infested with drugs. In a world that is infested with alcohol. In a world that is infested with all kinds of sin and all kinds of vice. People get addicted and all kinds of things.

This guy here was possessed by the devil. My friend, he was controlled. The Bible says that he had an unclean spirit.

3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

Keep in mind this guy here. If we would look at him, the Bible says that he did not wear any clothes so we know that he run around naked in the tombs. His home—he had settled down at the graveyard. That really touches my heart when I see that and when I read that because there was a time in my life that I hit rock bottom. Do you know what this guy did? He has hit rock bottom now. He has gone as far as he can go. He is dwelling in the tombs. The enemy has control over him. He has no self-esteem. He is running around naked. He has this whole area terrorized. Do you know what friend? This guy has hit bottom. Even though that is the case, you may think that in your life that you have hit bottom, that there is no help for you; if Jesus will visit a graveyard to save a demon possessed fellow then He will visit your house to save you. He is good to do those things that men cannot do.

This guy here—picture in your mind how sad this guy must have been. He was completely controlled by demons, by unclean spirit. His home was the graveyard; a place of corruption, a place of darkness, a place of death, a place of separation. That is where he stayed. That is where his home was. That would be a horrible place to be.

Every one of us sitting here tonight was there at one time. Before we got saved, some to greater degrees than others, but we were all there at one time. We were dead. We were dead in our trespasses and sins. We had been separated from a Holy God because of our sins. We were all alone. We were lonely. There are many different things that we can talk about there. Let's don't look down on people today. It irks me sometimes. I get upset when people want to talk about other people. When we want to look down at people who may be addicted to some kind of a drug, or alcohol or whatever it may be. However, if it had not been for the grace of God we would still be there. We would still yet be in the same place.

3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

Do you know what happened here? The Bible goes on down here and says that they often times had caught this fellow here and put chains upon him. They had put handcuffs on him when you actually

read that in the original. They used the word “fettters” here. They had put shackles upon his feet. Do you know what, by the supernatural power that he had; do you know what he would do? He would just break the handcuffs that he had and the shackles on his feet, he would just break them. The power of satan is great. Don’t you ever think that the power of satan is not great because my friend, it is.

I’m glad tonight, that the One in my heart and in my life, the One who died on Calvary and sitting upon the throne tonight; He has power tonight so much superior to satan. Do you know friend? Do you know what I am glad of? I’m glad that the sin that one shackle does or the sin that once had us all chained and fettered up; do you know what Jesus Christ done? He broke those chains and we are free tonight if we are saved.

4 Because that he had been often bound with fettters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fettters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

Nobody could help him. I want to say something here. There are certain things that society cannot do for you. I thank God that we live in a society where there is some restraint. They have the authority or the power to restrain some people. Don’t you? I thank God that we have jails. I thank God that we have prisons. I do. Don’t you? Some of these people who are life criminals; I don’t want them being around my kinds or my grandkids. Do you? They need to be locked up. Be that what it may, there is nothing in the system—all they can do is just lock people up. There is nothing in that system that can really transform their lives. They go to prison. Some get saved in prison. I understand that. The prison system itself, society itself; we have all kinds of programs. We have all kinds of counselors. That is good, great and fine. However, there is nothing in society in itself that can transform people the Bible says that they tried to help this guy and they could not help him. Do you know what friend?

Programs are great and we need them. However the help that people need today does not come in a program. It does not come in a three step deal. It comes from Jesus Christ. That is the help that we need today. Society tried to help this guy, but there wasn’t any help here.

5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him,

Here’s what happens. The Bible says, He gets out of the ship. He meets this guy here. He’s a fellow that is controlled by demons. He is living in the tombs. The Bible says that they caught him and chained him up. He broke the chains and fettters. They did all that and no man could help him. The Bible says when he gets over here; he stays in the tombs day and night. He cuts himself with stones. When you read the word “crying” do you know what he would have been doing? If you would have been in that area you would have heard this guy scream for miles and miles around. When you look at the word “cry” that is really what it brings out is “a death curdling scream.” Do you know what this guy did? That is what he did. That is what SIN does.

SIN will make you crazy. SIN will take you down a road that you don't want to go. SIN will make you do things that you thought you would never do.

Do you know what this guy did? He even cut himself with stones. He was even trying to kill himself. That is the ultimate goal of satan is to destroy you and to destroy me. This guy was running and screaming. He had the whole area terrified. However, when he saw Jesus coming...

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshiped him,

Look what happens here. Jesus gets out of the boat and the guy that is possessed with demons sees Jesus coming. He comes running towards where Jesus is at. Do you know what he does? He falls down upon his face; he puts his face right in the ground, right in the dust. That is what the word "worshiped" means. The demons that were in this guy understood who this man called Jesus really was. Do you know what? They also knew that Jesus had the authority and the power to put them into a place of torment. They understood that.

Get this.

The Bible says—the demons even believe, the devil even believes and trembles. The enemies of our soul, lucifer, satan, the dragon, the lion, whatever you want to call him the scriptures say he understands that Jesus Christ is the Son of Almighty God. He knows that. Do you know what satan knows tonight also? He knows that he is doomed and he is damned.

This guy here runs over and falls flat on his face before Jesus and begins to worship Him. There is going to be a day when every man and every woman; every boy and every girl that has ever been born is going to do the same thing. We are going to fall down before Almighty God and we are going to declare that Jesus is God to the glory of God the Father. You might say, "Well, I don't know about that." Friend listen, you will either do it while you are in this life. Repent of your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior or you will wait until you leave this life and you will stand before God at the great while judgment and you will proclaim Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father. That's the Bible. That will stand. The enemies even know who Jesus is. They do. There are untold millions of them out there.

7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

The Bible says that he cried with a loud voice. The demons in him begin to cry with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with thee." When you read that in the original it says "What do we have common?" Do you know what the demons understood? They understood that they had nothing in common with Jesus Christ. They were unclean. They were evil. They were dirty. They were filthy. They were defiled. Do you know what they understood? They understood Jesus was clean, righteous and Holy. Do you know what they understood? They understood that they had absolutely nothing in common. satan and Jesus Christ today have nothing in common. They are as different as east is from the west. They have nothing in common.

7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

“...I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.” Isn’t it something they recognized who Jesus was that He was the Son of Almighty God, but they also made a command or demand. “Don’t torment us.” When you read the whole context of different things, demons know... There is one devil, one real personal devil. There are many demons, many evil spirits that are out here, but there is one devil. Don’t forget that.

They said, “We command you, don’t torment us.” Isn’t it something that satan still hadn’t learned his lesson? He doesn’t order God around. Does he? We even think we do sometimes. If satan can’t do it, I can’t do it either.

Look what happens here.

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

Here they are the unclean spirits, the man of whom the unclean spirits are. He comes over as Jesus gets out of the boat and meets Him. He worships Him. He is not worshipping Him as being God. He is not worshipping Him as you and I worship Him. What it means here is that he just comes over and he reverences him. He understands the awesome power that Jesus has. He is not worshipping Him as you and I worship Him and praising Him as a being God. He is just recognizing and reverencing the great power that He has. The demons here say, “Don’t torment us now.” Do you know what Jesus says? “Come out of the man.”

Get this.

Here is a guy. I don’t know how old he is. I don’t know how long he has lived. Here is a guy running around naked. He doesn’t have any clothes on. His home was in the graveyard. He had the whole area terrorized. He screamed. He hollered. He cut himself with stones. I’d say he probably hadn’t had a bath in a long time. He probably did not smell good. He probably didn’t look good. However, that didn’t matter to Jesus. That didn’t matter to Him.

We see people like that. We pass people on the street sometimes that may not smell good. Or, we see them in the grocery store they may not be dressed like we think they should dress. Do you know what? Jesus still loves them. If you love Jesus, then you will love them too.

I may have said this or I may have not. I was down on the street corner the other day. You know I don’t see very well. This fellow across the street hollered at me. He said, “Hey, Bob.” I stopped and turned around and looked. I saw this guy across the street but I had no idea who he was. He come running across the street and come over there. He said, “You don’t know me. Do you?” I said, “No. I don’t know you.” He gave me a big hug and he told me who he was. It was someone I used to know many

years ago. The life style he is living today, I don't approve of. He sure didn't smell good. He didn't look good. However, I could see myself in the same place just a few years ago. I can see myself being there today had not somebody loved me enough to invite me to church to call me, to pray for me, and had not Jesus saved me; I would have been in the same place today. I talked to the man a few minutes there. I said, "Where are you going?" He told me where he lived. I said "Hey, stop in here and I'll take you home." Do you know what the sad part about this is? This young man—I don't know how old he is, but he is not very old. A few years ago, his mom and dad were as faithful in church as anybody sitting here tonight. They were as close to God as anybody I ever saw before. Great friends. Good friends—they ate at my house and I ate at their house. It is amazing what SIN does. It is amazing how SIN separates husbands and wives, how SIN separates mommies, daddies and children. I asked him how long has it been since you have seen your mom and dad. He said, "It's been so long since I've seen mom and I've talked to dad about a year ago. This fellow is just living here and yonder.

What I am saying is this. There is a real devil. Do you know what he is trying to do? He is trying to split families. If he can split families, if he can split husbands and wives up; do you know who pays the price? The little kids pay the price.

The young man—do you know what he used to do? He used to sing. It just breaks your heart to what happens when we allow satan to take control of our lives.

Friend, he will destroy you. You might say, "I'm stronger than that." I hope that you are. I've got all the confidence in the world in you that you are, but don't play games with the devil. The Bible says thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God. Don't think that you can play around with SIN—the old saying goes don't think you can play around with fire and not get burnt because you are going to get caught after a while.

I took the young man home. I talked to him for a good while. I invited him to church. I'm looking for him to come sometime. If he comes, he will be welcomed here. I know he will be welcomed here. He may not smell as good as some of you all do but he may not smell any worse either. (Joke)

Here's what happens.

9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

When you look at the word "legion" it means a group of Roman soldiers, a legion of Roman soldiers. When you look at different things here it was at least six thousand. Some translators said that it was as least 6,825, but at least it was 6,000. Here we are in this particular man. There is a legion of unclean spirits. There are at least 6,000 living in this one man. That is what that says. Could you imagine the torment that went on inside this guy? The unrest and upheaval and all the things in his life being out of control; he was probably sitting there wishing he could die. Just get it over with and just let me out of this mess. That is probably what he thought. Do you know what? There is hope and help on the way because Jesus Christ was there.

Do you know what the Bible says here?

10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

The demons, the unclean spirits that were in this guy said, "Don't send us out of the country." If you read some of the other scriptures, do you know what they said? "Don't send us out into the deep. Don't send us to the abyss. Don't send us into hell." That is really what they were saying. They know they are going there, but they just didn't want to go there this particular day.

11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

In other words, they drowned in the sea. They said, "Don't send us out into the deep. Just let us go into the herd of swine." Jesus gave them leave. Jesus said "Go." That is exactly what they did. They swine ran down into a steep place. They just went out of control. They went down into the Sea of Galilee and two thousand of them drowned down in there.

Look what happens here.

14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

The fellows who were taking care of the swine, when they see that they are gone, that they had run into the sea; they go into the cities and to the country roundabout and they said "Come out here. Something has happened. The swine are all gone." Do you know what they see when they get out here? They see Jesus, but they also see the crazy guy--the guy who was out of control, the guy who had terrorized this whole country, the guy that had everybody here scared to death, and a guy that screamed and cried and mutilated himself. He is sitting at the feet of Jesus. He has clothes on.

Get this.

He has got his right mind. Isn't that awesome!

When Jesus Christ moves in then the enemy has to move out. When Jesus Christ moves in, when He moves into our lives, the instant that you and I get saved, the Holy Spirit of God takes us His abode in our hearts and in our lives. However, before that happens do you know what happens? Satan has got to go. Do you know what makes us sane? It is having a right relationship with Jesus Christ. Men, who have a right relationship with Jesus Christ, are in their right mind.

There was no more screaming. There was no more terrorizing people. He was no more threatening everybody. When you read the story here, the people in this whole community was probably scared to death of this guy. Now he is in control because he has allowed Jesus Christ to take control.

Your life will be in control only when you allow Jesus Christ to take control. You can't save yourself. You can't quit your bad habits. You can't quit your drugs. You can't quit your alcohol. None of the vices that you had; you can't quit those things. You can't quit by yourself. You can clean yourself up. You can do all you can. You may do the very best you can. You may quit all those things even if you could quit all those things; you cannot save yourself. You can quit all your bad habits. You can do all that. However, there are many things that you can do yourself, but you can't save yourself.

Here this guy is sitting at the feet of Jesus. He is clothes and he is in his right mind.

We have a world full of people today who would like to spend one day in their right mind. Just one hour of peace they would like to have being in their right mind, just for one hour. Spend a little time in the nursing homes, hospitals, or down at the jail. Do you know what you will find? You find out that there are a lot of these young men and women that are there that would like to have one hour just being in their right mind. Jesus Christ can do that for you. He can take the enemy of your soul and throw him out if you will just let him.

16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

Here is what happens. When all the town's people come out and see what was done, they see the hogs are gone, they see lunatic, crazy guy, mad man is clothed and in his right mind and sitting at the feet of Jesus—do you know what they do? Instead of accepting Jesus and embracing Him, we would really appreciate it if you would take your ministry and go somewhere else. That is really what they said. Would you please just leave here? We don't want you over here anymore. You are costing us some money. You are getting in our wallets. You are getting our profession here. You are costing us a few dollars. Please, just leave.

It is sad today to see people, even Christian people today getting involved in things where we are shoving Jesus aside just for a few dollars. That is very true.

18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

In other words, the guy has just got saved now. When Jesus is getting ready to leave the country, He will do that when you ask Him to. Jesus will leave when you say we don't want you anymore. Jesus will leave. There are many people doing that in their lives.

When He is getting ready to get on the ship to go back across the sea over on the other side then the guy that had been cleansed said, "I want to go with you." That is a good sign that he got saved. When he wants to follow Jesus, do you know what Jesus said?

19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

When Jesus saves us, we need to tell everybody. We need to tell everybody that we can. He wanted to go with Jesus but Jesus said go home. That tells me he had a home. That tells me he used to have friends. That is what sin does for you. It separates you from your home and your friends. He says go home and tell your friends how great Jesus has been to you and how he had compassion on you. That is exactly what he did. The Bible says that all men did marvel. Isn't it wonderful what Jesus Christ can do?

He can take a hardened sinner, He can take someone that has been so controlled by sin for so many years and Jesus can move in and clean them up and make them a brand new creature.

This guy had his right mind. He was no longer the menace of society. He was no longer the one that everyone talked about in a bad way. He was one that was sitting here clothed and in his right mind. Jesus will change your life tonight.

He doesn't care how far you have been. If He will go to the graveyard and get them then He can save you tonight. If He will meet there with anybody then He will meet here with you tonight if you will just come. If you want to come and pray, then do that.