

Becoming Like Jesus: New Serving

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Mark 5:1-20

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Discussion and Reflection Guide

Becoming like Jesus requires us to serve differently

We sometimes opt out of the transformation process because we don't want to serve like Jesus did.

*In what ways do you think Jesus had a radically different way of serving?

*Can you think of a time that you chose to opt out of serving in the way Jesus did? What were some of the reasons why?

Jesus led his followers to uncomfortable Kingdom work

Read and discuss Mark 5:1- 15(NIV)

⁵ They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

*How do you see Jesus' different way of serving in this encounter?

*Why do you think discomfort would play a role in serving like Jesus?

*Is there a time you experienced discomfort while serving? What was that like?

*Why would it be important to seek out the margins rather than only serving those we regularly come across?

The way Jesus served made people uncomfortable

Read and discuss Mark 5:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and

how he has had mercy on you.”²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

*Why does Kingdom work make others uncomfortable?

*What examples of this can you think of in our current context?

*Is there a time serving like Jesus made others uncomfortable with you?

Communion with Jesus beyond our comfort zone is how we are transformed

He wants to teach us to depend on him as we serve and to lean on him when the world doesn't understand.

*In the world you are aware of, who seems overlooked to you? Who does the Spirit within your heart notice on the margins?

*What type of service would stretch you beyond your normal comfort zone? What is a step you could take to make this type of serving a part of your life?

*Are you willing to sacrifice or risk for communion with God at this point in your life? Why or why not?