



Rescuing Lost Causes

What does a desperate person look like?

So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the land of the Gerasenes. Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him. This man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with a chain. Whenever he was put into chains and shackles-as he often was-he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. All day long and throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones.

Mark 5:1-5 (NLT)

- They have lost their self-esteem.

Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him.

Mark 5:2 (NLT)

- They have lost their self-restraint.

This man lived among the tombs and could not be restrained, even with a chain.

Mark 5:3 (NLT)

- They have lost their self-control.

Whenever he was put into chains and shackles-as he often was-he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him.

Mark 5:4 (NLT)

- They have lost their sense of self-preservation.

All day long and throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones.

Mark 5:5 (NLT)

How can we be rescued from this type of depression or discouragement?

1. Run to the feet of Jesus.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.
Mark 5:6 (NIV)

2. Express my struggle by name.

He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

Mark 5:7-10 (NIV)

3. See the humor in how God works.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil 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.

Mark 5:11-13 (NIV)

4. Choose to ignore the reactions of doubters.

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. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man - and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

Mark 5:15-17 (NIV)

5. Unleash genuine worship for all God has done in me.

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

Mark 5:18-19 (NIV)

6. Express my gratitude by telling others of God's healing power.

So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to tell everyone about the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.

Mark 5:20 (NLT)