

## The Story of Jesus

### Part 11: How to Find Fulfillment

Mark 5:1-20 - [watch online](#)

#### Summary:

We want to find fulfillment but don't know where to start or even what "fulfillment" actually looks like. When our deepest human needs are satisfied we discover what we've been looking for all along. We find it in the Story of Jesus.

#### Main Points:

[00:51] Humans need people, peace, and purpose.

[02:02] Our quest to satisfy our deepest needs often leads us down destructive paths.

[04:15] Jesus heals our brokenness by satisfying our deepest needs.

[08:20] Jesus seeks out each person and heals our brokenness personally.

[10:16] Jesus intervenes in our lives because he loves us.

[10:58] Jesus is strong enough to handle anything we bring him.

[12:49] Nothing is more important to Jesus than a person.

[15:34] When we are restored by Jesus we are given a role in bringing that restoration to others.

[19:36] The more we invite Jesus to intervene the more he heals our brokenness.

**Main Question:** [17:23] Where do you need Jesus to intervene?

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you in this week's message? What resonated with you? What did you disagree with? What challenged you? What questions do you still have?
2. Jon said, "Jesus intervenes in our lives because he loves us." Have you seen this play out in your or someone else's life?
3. Read what the Apostle Paul says about his role in 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. What do you think your role in bringing God's restoration to others looks like right now?
4. Where in your life do you feel you need Jesus to intervene? What could that look like?
5. How can your group pray with you this week?

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#### Transcript

**IN:** Ever feel like something is missing in life? You feel unfulfilled. Not exactly sure what you're looking for but know you can't find it?

In this episode we'll look for the answer in the Story of Jesus and some crazy demons.

And by the time we're done I think you'll discover what you've been looking for and how to find it.

So let's talk about it... together.

**WE:** I'm a pastor... not a psychologist, but from what I've seen as an observer of the human condition...

Deep down... to feel fulfilled, happy, truly human... Humans need people, peace, and purpose.

We need relationships... to be known... for who we really are.. Not for who we were, have done, what others say... we need to be truly known by people... and to be loved and accepted when we are known.

We need peace both within and without... We need to quiet the turmoil and chaos inside of us and the craziness around us in order to fully experience a fulfilling life.

We need purpose... we need to know that we matter, that what we do with our days is making some kind of difference

When these needs are met we thrive, we discover what it really means to be human.

But when they aren't... we feel broken and like part of us is missing.

Unfortunately it is so rare to have all three of these needs met and stable at the same time...

And the more we sense that these needs aren't met the more desperate we get... in fact

Our quest to satisfy our deepest needs often leads us down destructive paths.

We desperately want to be known so we jump from unfulfilling relationship to unfulfilling relationship...

- or we manipulate others to get their attention/concern.
- Become self-absorbed concerned with what we are getting from others instead of what we are giving
- We feel unknown and hurt so we lash out/react defensively
- SM

We want peace and to quiet the chaos inside us and around us

- We should be better/do better/be more... anxiety, guilt, shame, fear
- So we either self medicate, distract ourselves with hobbies/entertainment, pleasure
- We fight w/ and cut people out who disagree w/ us

We want to find purpose in our lives so we strive to get ahead no matter who we step on or leave behind...

- Confuse success with purpose.
- Make as much noise/stay as busy as possible to feel like we are making a difference
- Work ourselves to death
- We think MORE is the answer, but it only leads to more empty purposelessness.

Others seem to have what we think we are looking for, at least it looks that way on their SM,

- so we live vicariously through others... while being jealous of them at the same time

Seems like the more we try to satisfy these deepest needs... the further they slip away

Like chasing a fog... is there anything that can bring true fulfillment and happiness... peace?

I have good news... Jesus is the opposite... Jesus heals our brokenness by satisfying our deepest needs.

Sounds like a nice churchy sound bite right? Give me a few more minutes and I'll show you it's so much better

Whether JF or not... If you stayed with me this far...

It just might be what you've been looking for this whole time... Find it in another crazy story about Jesus and demons... probably the craziest.

**GOD:** Mark, companion of disciple Peter, recorded Peter's eyewitness experiences w/ Jesus.

Just told the story of Jesus controlling the chaos of nature with just his words by calming a storm. And if that seems hard to believe, Mark/Peter takes it a step further w/ a story about demons...

**V. 1-2** The disciples are still reeling from the calming of the storm and the sea... and they land on the other side in a non-jewish, Gentile area... somewhere these good Jewish teenagers had never stepped foot...

And are immediately met by a demon possessed man... (ever wonder what kind of dreams the disciples had in the following years?)

Now if been following the Story of Jesus so far we've talked about demons... hard to believe... I'll give you that.

But the BW's and Jesus make it clear there is a difference between mental illness and demon possession...

There is another reality behind what we see... and not everything in that reality is friendly.

And this man is experiencing some of the worst of that reality...

**V. 3-5** Man is obviously miserable... Isolated, surrounded by death, abused (often put in chains), tormented from within and without, self-destructive, no future, no purpose... barely living.

Has been stripped of almost all of his humanity... his relationships, his peace, and any purpose.

Now whether we are willing to admit it or not... whether we are willing to show anyone else or not... we can see a lot of ourselves in this guy.

Might not be possessed... but...

Isolated- Feel unknown/unseen/unaccepted

Might not live in tombs but we are constantly surrounded by the death of relationships, dreams, identities

Surrounded by hate

Feel like we have no future/purpose

We're chained to and stuck in repetitive self-destructive cycles.

We feel tormented without/and w/in... can't find real/lasting peace

But there was something that drove this man to Jesus... Or more likely Jesus drew him to himself...

Jesus seeks out each person and heals our brokenness personally.

Think about it... Why did Jesus tell the disciples to sail here in the first place?

- To meet this man... as we'll see Jesus gets right back in the boat after this interaction.

And... why would the demon allow the man to go to the one person who could help him?

- I think they didn't have a choice in the matter... look how they react...

**V. 6-10** The demon's question is interesting... "Why are you interfering with me Jesus?!"

- Ever feel like Jesus is interfering with your life? Just getting in the way of what you want to do/think?
- But as we see here he uses his power to interfere with evil... stepping in and thwarting it's plans
- But his interference against evil is also an intervention.
- He is intervening for this man... rescuing him in order to heal his brokenness
- You might feel like Jesus is interfering, but in reality he is intervening to save you from something...
- Jesus intervenes in our lives b/c he loves us.

We see a clear picture here of two spiritual forces in direct confrontation and it's obvious which one is more powerful.

The demons know they are in trouble... they know the party's over and that Jesus can do whatever he wants to them.

And notice it's not just one demon that's cowering before Jesus, it's an army.

Not only can Jesus control nature with just his words but an army of demons are terrified of him and have to do whatever he says.

Jesus is strong enough to handle anything we bring him.

Jesus demanding the demon's name isn't some magical formula to have power over them... it simply shows us that there were many demons and not just one.

So this army of demons begs Jesus not to torture them and send them far away... Luke: abyss/underworld... again knew Jesus could do whatever he wanted with them.

**V. 11-13** I know... poor pigs. But first let's see the big picture of what is happening here...

Jesus is bringing God's kingdom to earth... Intervening on behalf of humanity.

- Bringing God's light to restore and heal our brokenness

So when the darkness that has been holding humanity captive is faced with this true powerful light... it has no choice but to fling itself into the dark chaotic sea.

And as these pigs jump into the sea... those watching, and those reading, are forced to ask the question Mark has been trying to get us to ask from the beginning... WHO IS THIS MAN?

Mark doesn't seem to show the same concern we as modern westerners do to the innocent pigs.

- 2000 pigs were killed to save this man.
- Whatever else we might say we can't deny... **Nothing is more important to Jesus than a person.**

And as we'll see at the end of Mark's account, he proves it as he sacrifices himself for all of humanity.

But the pig herders just saw something amazing and terrifying...

**V. 14-17** The pig stampede was amazing on its own but the transformation of the man is the real miracle and proof of Jesus' power...

Jesus has intervened and restored this man's humanity... He has brought him, in essence, back to life

He gives him back his sanity... identity so he can be known again...

He gave him peace... he's able to simply sit calmly for the first time in a long time.

And the crowd comes out and sees this man... and instead of being happy that they don't have to deal with this guy anymore... they are afraid... and when they hear about the pigs they beg Jesus to leave.

Maybe they are thinking...

Whoa... that's enough of Jesus... this is too much for us.

- What if he wants to interfere more?

Or maybe they cared more about the pigs and the money they were going to make from them than they did about the man.

Either way... they beg him to leave and he obliges...

**V. 18-19** The man can't get enough of Jesus... and he wants to go with Jesus

But Jesus says no... seems kind of harsh.

But Jesus isn't done giving the man back his humanity...

He's given him his identity... he can be known, restored to relationships... he can now have PEOPLE.

He's given him PEACE... no longer tortured within and fighting everyone he comes into contact with...

And now Jesus is giving him PURPOSE...

Jesus says, this isn't just a you and me thing... you have a role to play in all of this... you've got to tell others and be a part of restoring others I'm seeking out.

When we are restored by Jesus we are given a role in bringing that restoration to others.

**V. 20** So the man fulfills his purpose... tells everyone he can throughout the whole region of the Ten Towns what Jesus has done for him... and people are amazed... but there's more...

**Mark 7:31-32** "Region of 10 Towns" They expect Jesus to heal the man... why? They had heard of Jesus already... someone had been going around telling these gentiles how a man intervened for him and cast an army of demons out of him and restored his true humanity.

**YOU:** So which version of this man do you identify most with right now?

Broken or restored?

What about your relationships?

Do you have peace within and without?

Have found and are you living out your God given purpose to help restore others?

The question we need to ask is... Where do you need Jesus to intervene?

Maybe it's your entire story...

See We are born into broken humanity... but Jesus came to restore it... one person at a time

We just have to let him. Admit we can't fix it ourselves... Choose to trust him to heal us and choose to follow him as our King.

And he will intervene and heal us and we will grow more and more into who he created us to be.

If you are ready to make that choice... just tell him.

Ask him... Jesus please come intervene in my life and heal my brokenness. I choose to trust you to make me new and to be my King.

Maybe you have pledged your allegiance to Jesus as your king... but something needs his intervention...

Maybe it's your people... there is brokenness in a relationship(s)

Maybe your peace is being broken... guilt, shame, anger, fear

Maybe you haven't discovered or lived out your purpose...

Ask him to come and intervene... to come and heal the broken relationships, to bring his peace into your mind and heart...

To give you a clear picture of your role in his kingdom and the opportunity, ability, and courage to carry it out.

**WE:** This story is not some weird, but kind of nice, story about Jesus and demons.

It shows us the deep truth of who Jesus is... God himself, with power over every force in the cosmos... who personally pursues us, and seeks us out, and intervenes in our lives to heal and restore us.

Who satisfies our deepest human needs.

When we are experiencing the brokenness of humanity... It is Jesus who intervenes and calms the chaos and restores us in his love and his power.

We just have to let him... The more we invite Jesus to intervene the more he heals our brokenness.