



Boomers. Busters. Gen X, Gen Y, Gen Alpha, Beta. The names to identify each generation keep growing. Each name carries with its traits that people use to define who these people are. This can be helpful but also confining as people see you in a certain way and forever define you. "What name does God give you?" How much does that name free me, define me or maybe even scare me?

Key Verse. *"And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." (Mark 5:6-9)*

Mark 5 comes right on the heels of *Mark 4* and the storm at sea. God has a flair for setting the stage. The disciples with Jesus are coming ashore in Gentile territory. It is night, they are wet, bedraggled after the storm. The disciples are questioning "Who is the man?" They land in a cemetery and are accosted by a naked man, demon possessed who is shouting at them. In this moment Jesus not only exerts his power but also changes the future of the man by giving him a new identity.

Read through *Mark 5:1-20*. Take time to read it slowly and put yourself into this moment with the disciples. Highlight what words and phrases stand out to you as you read this section. What are you sensing, experiencing in this moment?

Read *Mark 5:6-9*. Mark describes this man as demon possessed. What has been your experience, if any, with this? Most people, even some Christians see the battle between good and evil as two opposing equal forces and that is not the case. God is superior. How does this section highlight God's superiority over evil? What happens when God demonstrates his power?

Read *1 Corinthians 15:57*. What victories has God given to you that you can celebrate?

Scripture is filled with examples of God giving people new names. Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Saul to Paul, and especially Jacob (deceiver) to Israel (God's people). By what name is calling you? Friend? Son? Daughter? Etc.? How does God's name for you change your perspective on who you are?

Read *Mark 5:18-20*. After his deliverance this man wants to follow Jesus, but Jesus leaves him behind to tell his story to others. Who has God placed around me with whom I can share Jesus' story in my life? When have I taken advantage of the opportunity?

THIS WEEK:

- By what name are you living?
- How will Jesus' name for me change who I am?