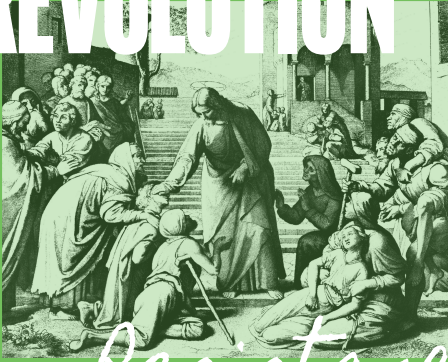


REVOLUTION



Resistance

Mark 5:1-20

Pastor Joe Valenti

February 1, 2026

SERMON NOTES & QUOTES

Jesus leads his Followers to Uncomfortable Places (vv. 1, 11-13)

- For Jewish people, pigs weren't just another kind of livestock. According to God's law, pigs were considered unclean—meaning they symbolized everything associated with separation from God. Jews didn't eat pork, raise pigs, or touch them. To be around pigs meant being constantly reminded that this place does not share our values, our worship, our way of life, or our God.

Question to Consider:

When Jesus leads you somewhere uncomfortable (or the opportunity arises), do you interpret that as a mistake—or as training?

Jesus Leads his Followers to Difficult People (vv. 2-13)

- When Jesus leads YOU to difficult people, He is not setting you up for failure. He is teaching each of us where our confidence must rest—not in our strength, but in his.

Jesus Leads His Followers to Risky Obedience (vv. 17-19)

- Jesus' authority is not just about personal transformation—it is about multiplication.
- As Jesus transforms your life, you have a mandate - in his authority - to go and tell others about what Jesus has done for you.

(over)

REFLECTIVE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR THE WEEK

Pray for trust when Jesus leads you into uncomfortable places.

Ask God to help you follow Jesus first rather than choosing comfort first, and pray that our church would be marked by obedience and faith rather than ease.

Pray for compassion and courage toward difficult people.

Bring specific names before the Lord—family members, coworkers, neighbors, classmates—and ask Jesus to shape your heart and lead you toward them with His love.

Pray for gospel confidence in Jesus' transforming power.

Ask God to help you carry the gospel with humble confidence—not believing that you can fix people or situations, but trusting that Jesus has authority and power to change hearts.

Pray for obedience that says “yes,” even when it feels risky.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a clear next step of obedience and to give you the courage to take it. Pray also for those God may be calling into vocational ministry—pastors, missionaries, and future ministry leaders—that they would respond faithfully to His call.

Pray for a life of multiplication.

Ask God to send you as a witness into your home, workplace, school, neighborhood, and beyond—living and speaking in ways that point to what Jesus has done, under His authority and for His glory.