



### **You Need a Place**

**August 15, 2021**

*Mark 5:15-20*

#### Connect:

- Many people, when speaking of a particular destination, say “*That’s my happy place.*” Do you have such a place? What makes it so?

#### Engage

- Read **Mark 5:15-20**. Speak of the “*places*” in Legion’s life – where he’s been; where he is now; where he’s ultimately sent back to by Jesus. Describe each place and what his experience may have been in each setting.
- The famous sitcom *Cheers* had a memorable theme song that said, “*Sometimes you wanna go where everybody knows your name.*” This begs the question – does the place make the people or the people make the place? Discuss.
- How many people do you imagine look at the Church as “*their place*”? Starbucks founder, Howard Schultz, developed the blueprint for the famed coffee shop empire on the idea that people need a “*third place.*” They have some place they call “*home*”, a second place they may “*work*” and then have need of a third place (*where they build friendship/fellowship/community*). He saw Starbucks being that Third Place for many people. What is the “*place*” of the Church in today’s society?
- If Jesus casts out the demons of Legion, can he cast out our own? There are many thoughts to the nature of Legion’s condition. If, however, we defined demons as “*barriers to community/fellowship*” what demons might you identify in your own life?
- For a time, people referred to the “*Nones*” – the non-churched individuals in America. There is now some talk of the “*Dones*” – those who were previously churched but have left. Is this trend simply “*on them*”? What responsibility does the Church have for such departures? Can we redeem the place of Church in the lives of the *Dones*? If so, how?

#### Next Steps:

- Determine what makes a place worthy of *witness* status. Can you readily name your place(s)? Give thanks for the value of such a place. Ask yourself, “*How can I create such a space **wherever** I may be?*” Then get to work on what you deem to be the answer.

#### Pray:

- “*God of all times, spaces and places. Thank you for ushering us into your beautifully created world. As uniquely and meticulously created beings, we also have found the beauty of claiming sacred places in our lives where we feel safe, secure, welcomed, loved and at home. Help us honor each place and, as far as it is up to us, help us create such spaces for others. Amen.*”