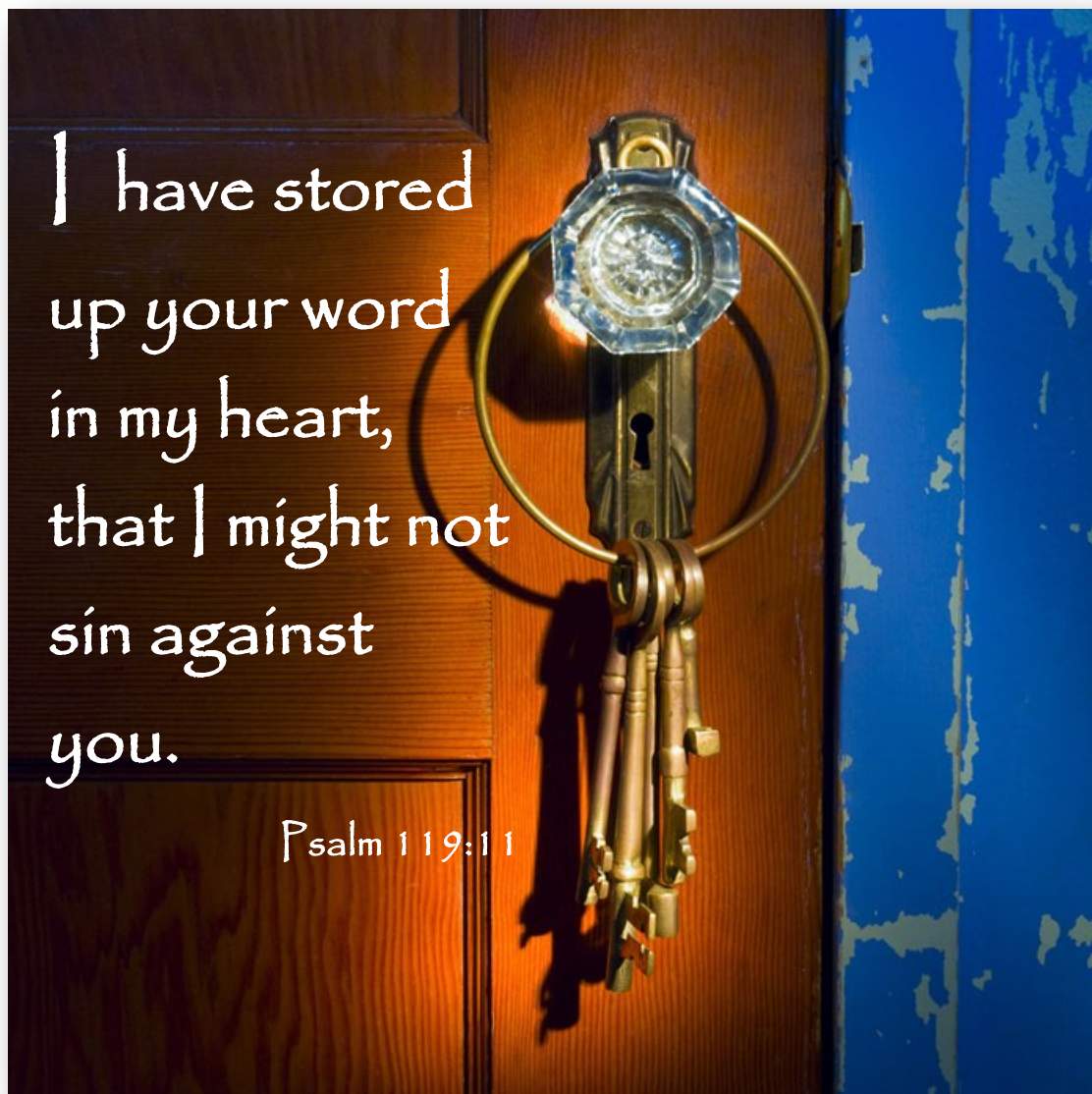


# UNLOCKING THE WORD



**THE GOSPEL OF MARK STUDY GUIDE**

**Chapter 5**

THE GOSPEL OF MARK  
JESUS CHRIST SERVANT AND KING  
A STUDY OF MARK 5  
STUDY THREE

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS

MARK 5:13-17

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“FORGIVENESS IS CHRISTIANITY AT ITS HIGHEST LEVEL. IT REFLECTS GOD’S IMMENSE FORGIVENESS THROUGH CHRIST, AND NO HUMAN EXPRESSION OF FORGIVENESS COULD EVER SURPASS WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR US.”

—PASTOR JOHN MACARTHUR

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**PREPARATION IN PRAYER**

Stop and pause before you begin by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of God’s Word to you and to quiet your mind to be focused on Him.

Heavenly Father, Let me hear the words you’ve spoken from your word. I want to hear what you have to say to me. You have given me life and breath, you sustain me by your mighty power. You alone are worthy of all my worship, attention and devotion. Let the noise of life fade away as seek I you. Give me ears to hear and a heart to obey. Amen.

**KEYS TO NOTICE**

1. *The gift of forgiveness brings with it freedom from oppression.* Jesus came to bring forgiveness and in doing so He also brought healing to the whole person.
2. *Forgiveness has to do with the past.* We are not given the reason this man was in the situation he was. Jesus allows you to leave the pain in the past. Freedom comes from being willing to move forward so you don’t walk backwards in life.

**OBSERVATIONS:**

Forgiveness came to a man who for all intents and purposes was written off by society. In part because of an out of control through supernatural evil forces dominating his life. How can we know forgiveness came to this man's life? See vs 13, 15, 18.

Forgiveness requires that you name what is wrong, see vs 9. The first step of forgiveness is to acknowledge the wrong, not deny it doesn't exist. What is the result of forgiveness, vs 15,18?

Jesus gave this man's life back out of His great love and mercy. Why then do you think the people from the city asked Jesus to leave?

THE GIFT OF FORGIVENESS  
MARK 5:13-17

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**INTERPRETATIONS:**

**Forgiveness is the cancellation of a debt.** Consider for a moment what your options would be if it's not forgiveness?

**Forgiveness has to do with the past.** Jesus mission of forgiveness was accomplished at the cross so you could leave your pain in the past. How can you avoid "walking backwards" in life and continually revisiting your pain that Jesus has already forgiven?

**Forgiveness will travel a long way.** Consider for a moment where this man was in life. It seems fitting that Jesus was willing to venture into the tombs, symbolic of the results of unforgiveness. How far have you had to "venture" into someone's life to extend forgiveness? What were the results?

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**APPLICATION: GOD'S WILL TODAY**

**Forgiveness is the cancelling of a debt.** Matthew 18:21-35. We cannot undo the past but we can let go of it. How do you let go?

If God does not exist, and we are floating through space, how can you explain forgiveness?

**Forgiveness has to do with the past or a past event in your life.** How can you forgive yourself or others so you don't abuse today with something from the past?

**Don't confuse forgiveness and trust.** If forgiveness is for the past, where and what is trust for? Past, present or future? Trust will ask: "is it safe to move forward?" How have you done this?

**Unforgiveness keeps you or a relationship chained to the past,** or like a pianist with an open sore on his finger who still tries to play. How can you forgive to break the chain and not transfer the hurt from the past to someone in the present or future?

Does your unforgiveness allow your relationship to have a tomorrow? How will you not allow it to be carried into the future? See Matthew 6:15 How can Jesus ask this of you?

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, like the demon possessed man. How far will Christ's forgiveness take you in order to give that same forgiveness to someone else? Who is that in your life?

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

Lord, let me be ever mindful that you are working in me to bear much fruit. Help me keep my eyes on You and to always encourage others along the way as You bring them into my life. Give me the strength to carry out the work You have prepared for me to do during each season of my life. Humble me at all times so that I can be confident in pleasing You. Amen.



BELONG. GROW. REACH.