

Mark 4:35 – 5:20 Jesus calms storms and casts out demons!

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mar 4:35-37 *On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.*

At evening of the same day, Jesus and His disciples started across the Sea of Galilee toward the eastern shore. They had not made any advance preparations. Other little boats followed. Then suddenly a violent windstorm arose. Huge waves threatened to swamp the boat. – Believers Bible Commentary

Mar 4:38-41 *But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

Jesus was sleeping in the stern of the boat. The frantic disciples awoke Him, rebuking Him for His seeming lack of concern for their safety. The Lord arose and rebuked the wind and the waves. The calm was immediate and complete. Then Jesus briefly chided His followers for fearing and not trusting. They were stunned by the miracle. Even though they knew who Jesus was, they were impressed afresh by the power of One who could control the elements.

The incident reveals the humanity and the deity of the Lord Jesus. He slept in the stern of the boat; that's His humanity. He spoke and the sea was calm; that's His deity.

It demonstrates His power over nature, as previous miracles showed His power over diseases and demons.

Finally, it encourages us to go to Jesus in all the storms of life, knowing that the boat can never sink when He is in it. – Believers Bible Commentary

Thou art the Lord who slept upon the pillow,
Thou art the Lord who soothed the furious sea,
What matter beating wind and tossing billow,
If only we are in the boat with Thee?

—Amy Carmichael

In the storm

I. The influence of danger it caused the disciples to doubt the care of Christ. Why is it we doubt the Lord in seasons of danger?

1. Imperfect knowledge of the Lord.
2. Natural impatience.

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3. Satanic temptations.

(Source: Biblical Illustrator)

Mark Chapter 5

THEME: Demoniac of Gadara; woman with issue of blood; daughter of Jairus raised from dead (supernatural).

We come now to one of the most important chapters in the Gospel of Mark. I'm sure some of you are smiling now, because I think I say that about every chapter we study. Well, every chapter is the most important chapter when you are studying it! But this one is important because the Gospel of Mark is a Gospel of action. There are more of the miracles given in this Gospel than in any other, and in this chapter, there are three outstanding miracles related. They could be performed only by the hand of Omnipotence. That is why I think this is a remarkable chapter.

Let me say just a word today about demon possession. We promised it on several occasions in Matthew, and when we began Mark, we said that we'd have something a little more detailed to say concerning it. This is the place. – McGee

Mar 5:1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

Our Lord had taught on the other side and had given them parables. He was weary and so had crossed the sea. The Gadarenes were the inhabitants of Gadara, and this is the land that was given to the tribe of Gad on the east side of the Jordan River. They were the ones who stayed on the east side, and now we find them in the pig business. You see, when you start away from God, you just keep going away from Him. - McGee

Have you ever compromised and refused to cross the Jordan? The blessing is always in the promised land after crossing the Jordan and not in settling.

Mar 5:2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

He's "a man," a human being. Note that first of all and write it down. He is in a desperate condition, but he is still a man. That is what the Lord Jesus saw—a man. In spite of his condition, Jesus saw the man. His conduct suggests that the man was a maniac. Notice what it says about him. – McGee

Mar 5:3-5 who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

This is a desperate case of a man possessed with an unclean spirit. He dwelt, which means he settled down, among the tombs. This is where he lived; this was his ghetto. The tombs were unclean places. The dead were there, and sometimes the bodies were exposed. He no longer enjoyed the society of normal men, but he lived among the dead. We find from Matthew that there was another man, but Mark and Luke center on this one. We gather that the other man was no companion to this man; nor, of course,

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were the dead any company to him. He was alone. Yet we are told that he possessed superhuman power; so, they could not bind him. Just because a man demonstrates power which is supernatural does not prove that God gave it to him. This case is a typical example. He was a wild man; no one could confine him. He was miserable. He suffered great physical harm which he inflicted on himself. He's a creature of pathos and pity, and on the human plane he is a hopeless case. He's inarticulate and just crying out. What an awful condition! And all due to demon possession! - McGee

Mar 5:6-9 When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" Then He asked him, "What is your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

It was the man who worshiped Him, not the demon. He was afraid of Jesus. He suffered from what I suppose would be called spiritual schizophrenia, a split personality. Sometimes it is the man and sometimes it is the demon speaking. In verse Mar_5:7 it literally says, "What is there to thee and me?" That is, "What have we in common?" This poor man—possessed by demons! – McGee

The answer of this man is baffling but it's not bad grammar. He says, "My name is ..." indicating that the man was trying to speak, but then the demons take over and they say, "We are many."

Notice: Jesus models Spiritual Warfare for His disciples including us.

Does the demon leave immediately on Jesus's command? Why not? When he does not leave what does Jesus do? What did you learn from this scenario?

Mar 5:10-13 Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So, all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea and drowned in the sea.

Notice: Demons prefer even swine or the abyss.

The Lord has often been criticized for causing the destruction of these pigs. Several points should be noted:

1. He did not cause this destruction; He permitted it. It was Satan's destructive power that destroyed the pigs.
2. There is no record of the owners finding fault. Perhaps they were Jews for whom the raising of pigs was forbidden.
3. The soul of the man was worth more than all the pigs in the world.
4. If we knew as much as Jesus knew, we would have acted exactly the same way He did. – Believers Bible Commentary

Mar 5:14-17 So those who fed the swine fled, and they told it in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus and saw the one who had

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been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

Those who witnessed the swine's destruction ran back to the city with the news. A crowd returned to find the ex-demoniac sitting at Jesus' feet clothed and in his right mind. The people were afraid. Someone has said, "They were afraid when He stilled the tempest on the sea, and now in a human soul." The witnesses recounted the whole story to the newcomers. It was too much for the populace; they pleaded with Jesus to depart from the region. This and not the destruction of the pigs is the shocking part of the incident. Christ was too costly a guest!

"Countless multitudes still wish Christ far from them for fear His fellowship may occasion some social or financial or personal loss. Seeking to save their possessions, they lose their souls" (Selected). – Believers Bible Commentary

Before we judge, do we sometimes feel following Christ or having His fellowship is too costly?

Mar 5:18-20 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

As Jesus was about to leave by boat, the healed man begged to accompany Him. It was a worthy request, evidencing his new life, but Jesus sent him home as a living witness of God's great power and mercy. The man obeyed, carrying the good news to Decapolis, an area embracing ten cities.

This is a standing order for all who have experienced the saving grace of God: "Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you." Evangelism begins at home! – Believers Bible Commentary

Do you believe that your mission is right here at home?

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Demon Possession (McGee)

Now let me come back and say some things about this matter of demon possession:

1. Not only Mark but all of the Scriptures bear definite witness to the reality of the demons. For those who accept the authority of Scripture, there must be an acceptance of the reality of demons.
 2. They were especially evident during the ministry of Jesus but, of course, were not confined to that period. By the way, we're living in a day right now when there is a resurgence and a manifestation of demonism again. Many illustrations of this could be given.
 3. For some strange reason they seek to indwell mankind. They seek to manifest their evil nature through human beings. They are extremely restless. This description is clear. "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out" (Luk_11:24). Is this not the characteristic of all evil, even evil men? There is the restlessness of seeking expression of evil nature.
- Good spirits never seek to take possession of men. The Holy Spirit is the one exception, and He only indwells believers. But as truly as He indwells believers, so demons can possess the unsaved. Demons cannot possess the saved. We are told that greater is He that in us (the Holy Spirit) than he that is in the world (Satan) (1Jn_4:4). Therefore, a child of God cannot be demon-possessed.
4. In this incident the demons would rather go into a herd of swine than the abyss. That is interesting to note.
 5. They should be called demons and not devils. There is only one Devil. Our translation is faulty here. They are called "unclean spirits" because of their nature.
 6. Scripture does not give us the origin of them. Anything I would say today would be highly speculative.
 7. There seem to be many of them.
 8. They are under the control of Satan. Now I said I would not speculate, but here I go. I'm of the opinion that when Satan fell, these were the angels that followed him. Now having said that, let's not say any more.
 9. Their purpose is the final undoing of man. They are certainly working on Satan's program.
 10. There are present-day examples of demon possession. We have Satan worship right in our own neighborhoods, and there are a lot of college students and professors who are engaged in it. They say they find reality in it. I think they do, by the way. I think that Satan is prepared to give reality to those who worship him. The all-important question is: what kind of reality do they find?
 11. The Lord Jesus Christ has power over demons. That, I think, is a great lesson for us to learn.

There is no reason for any believer to be afraid of demons or to adopt some superstition or spooky notion concerning them. If you feel that you are bothered with them, then just ask the Lord Jesus to deliver you. They have been cast out in His name, and it is a lack of faith in the Lord Jesus to walk in fear of them today. If you feel that they can control you in any way, or possess you, or direct you, then you need counselling. Remember that the Lord Jesus Christ has power over demons.