

5. Jesus Continues His Miracles and Raises Jarius' Daughter from the Dead

Although Mark 4 focused on how Jesus used parables to teach the mysteries of the kingdom of God, the chapter closed with a vivid demonstration of his power over nature. Mark 4:39-41 reads:

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Our study of Mark 4 concluded, "Each time the Lord conquered nature, the disciples became terrified." Mark 5 proceeds with ever more powerful miracles that Jesus performed.

Jesus Casts out Many Demons from One Man

Mark 5:1-5

5 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

This trip was evidently to Gergesa on the east bank of the Sea of Galilee. The scene itself is unsettling. A man living in tombs who could not be bound cries out continually and cuts himself with stones. The scripture clearly states: "A man with an evil spirit

The Demons Know Who Jesus Is

Mark 5:6-10

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

Of first importance is the continuing fact that these evil spirits know Jesus. This one fell down on his knees to address Jesus. He expected Jesus to torture him and worse yet send him out of



the region. When asked for his name, he replied, "Legion for we are many." More significantly, the evil spirit begged that Jesus not send him out of the region. The fact that evil spirit was many and the fact that he did not want to be sent out of the region agree with Luke 11:24-26:

24 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' 25 When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

For the evil spirit not wanting to leave speaks to how horrible their normal haunt is – a place described in Rev 18:2:

"Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!
She has become a home for demons
and a haunt for every evil spirit,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable bird.

Jesus Sends the Demons into a Herd of Pigs and the Pigs Drown in the Lake

Mark 5:11-13

11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

As an alternative, the evil spirits begged that the Lord send them into a nearby herd of pigs, which he did. The pigs rushed into the lake and were drowned. The adage is true here: be careful what you ask for.

How the People Respond to Jesus' Miracle

Mark 5:14-17

14 Those tending the pigs ran off and they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man – and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

Those who tended the pigs and the people who heard about the miracle of pigs running into the lake and the man, once demon-possessed, now dressed and in his right mind, were a afraid. The people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. This seems like an odd turn of events: why were the not welcoming the Lord warmly? One need only to look back to Mark 3:21 where his family seemed just as mystified by what he was doing: "21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, 'He is out of his mind.'"

Jesus Instructs the Man

Mark 5:18-20

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done

for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

The demon-possessed man begged to go with Jesus, but Jesus sent him home to tell what the Lord had done for him. The man spread the word in the Decapolis (that is, five cities). All the people were amazed.

Jesus Goes to Jairus' Dying Daughter

Mark 5:21-24

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet 23 and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24 So Jesus went with him.

Mark now comes to Jairus' dying daughter. This miracle will extend the examples of Christ unlimited power of the Holy Spirit to the power over death. If seeing one raised from the dead will not produce faith in those witnessing it, what will? The Lord pronounced an interesting and profound eternal principle in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:27-31:

27 "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

29 "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

30 "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

31 "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Thus far, Mark's account has illustrated the Lord's power over sin, disease, evil spirits, nature, and death.

Jesus Heals a Woman Bleeding for 12 Years

Mark 5:24-34

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Jesus power is greater than that of all the doctors that she had seen. She approached the Lord with confidence in his power, thinking only to touch his clothes. Matthew has two accounts of this same unconditional faith when approaching the Lord. Matt 8:2-3 is an occasion where Jesus healed a leper:

2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

In Matt 8:5-13, Jesus healed the servant of a centurion without ever going to the servant. The Lord declared the greatness of the centurion's faith:

10 When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. . . . 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.

The miracles of the Lord were never dependent upon the faith of the subjects, since the power of the Holy Spirit resided in him without limitation. However, the object lesson here is that when we ask of the Lord, we should hold no doubts. James 1:6-8 teaches:

6 But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Jesus Raises Jarius' Daughter

Mark 5:35-43

35 *While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"*

36 *Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."*

37 *He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 But they laughed at him.*

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

The narrative switches back to Jarius' daughter, as men come from the house to Jarius, saying his daughter is dead. Once, Jesus focuses Jarius on his faith. "Just believe," the Lord said.

What follows is an intimate account of the raising of this girl. Mark must have gotten the details from Peter, his mentor and eyewitness. The witnesses among the disciples were restricted to Peter, James, and John. The people in the homes actually laughed at the Lord when he said that she was not dead. Further, the group of witnesses was restricted to these disciples plus the father and mother. That Mark knew that exact words spoken only before this limited group attests to Peter as his source. The Lord raises the girl; the chapter ends, leaving the people amazed, frightened, and laughing at the Lord – a bewildered lot, indeed.