

Mark 5

Mark 5.1-10

V1 – From the storm-tossed sea they went next to a storm-tossed man in the country of the Gerasenes

V2 – Notice the speed in this verse – there is no waste of time here

-**What does Mark tell us about this man?** He lived in the tombs and had an unclean spirit

V3 – It is very likely that the tombs were among the caves along the seashore

-**What had people tried to do?** Bind the man

-**Were they successful?** No, he would break loose

V4 – **What had they used to bind him?** Shackles, chains

-This man simply could not be brought under control

V5 – **What kind of behavior did this man have?** Crying out, cutting himself with rocks

-**How long did this behavior last?** Day and night

-Here is the picture of a man in a pitiful situation; he was living in great misery

-Remember how Jesus had compassion on the leper in *Mark 1*

V6 – **What did the man do when he saw Jesus?** Ran to him and bowed down before him

V7 – Notice that the demons again stated that Jesus was the Christ, the son of God

-**What did the demons ask Jesus not to do?** Torment them

-In other words, they did not want Jesus to leave them without a body to inhabit

V8 – **What had Jesus been doing all this time?** Commanding the demons to come out

V9 – **What did Jesus ask the demons?** The name of the demons

-**Answer?** Legion (because they were many)

V10 – **Special request from the demons?** Not to be sent out to the countryside

-**Read Matthew 8.29** (before the time of judgment)

-**Read Luke 8.31** (the abyss or hell)

-Notice how the demons are referred to in both singular and plural

-The man's personality was split by the demons; he was not in complete control of his voice, etc.

-So the demons did not yet want to go to eternal punishment

Mark 5.11-20

V11 – **What does Mark record next in this story?** Swine, pigs on the mountainside

V12 – **What request did the demons make?** To be sent into the pigs

V13 – **What did Jesus do?** Gave them permission to enter the pigs

-Jesus was the one in authority here, not the demons

- What did the demons do?** Entered the swine
- What did the swine do?** Ran down the hillside into the sea
- There is a large slope in this area that has been found today; it goes almost straight down into the sea for about 40 yards
- What happened to the swine?** They drowned in the sea
- So here were 2000 pigs that lost their lives because of this miracle
- How can we justify this?** Because this man's soul was worth more than all the pigs
- Also, these were Jews. They were not supposed to be raising pigs to begin with (violated the Old Testament food laws - pigs were unclean animals)

V 14 – **What was the reaction of the people who saw what happened?** Ran into town and told everybody

- Next event?** People from the town came out to see what was going on

V 15 – **What did they see when they got there?** The possessed man was sitting, clothed, in his right mind

- Notice that to be in one's right mind means that a person is clothed (nudism is not good).
- Reaction of the people?** Frightened
- Why?** Because they knew what this man was like before he was healed, so Jesus must have had great power

V 16 – They told all their friends about it

V 17 – **What request did the people make?** That Jesus would leave their area

- What does this tell us about the people of that area?** They cared more for their illegal pig business than for the soul of this tormented man
- Do people today care more for their money than for the gospel?** Yes, many times

V 18 – **What was the reaction of the man who had been healed?** Begged Jesus to let him go with him

V 19 – What a beautiful verse!

- What did Jesus tell this man to do?** Go back to his own people; teach them the gospel and mercy of God
- Let's keep this man in mind, because he reappears later (*Mark 9.38-40*)

V 20 – **What did this man do?** Went to Decapolis and preached Christ

- Decapolis: a group of 10 cities under the continuing influence of Alexander the Great, so this man was preaching Christ to the Gentiles (another example of the gospel being taken to non-Jews before Cornelius)

Mark 5.21-24

V 21 – **What kind of reception did Jesus receive on the western side of the Sea of Galilee?** Great crowds

V 22 – **Who fell at the feet of Jesus?** Jairus, an official of the synagogue

- How was his reaction different from the reaction of the other synagogue officials?** He had

great humility (fell at feet of Jesus)

V 23 – What else shows his different attitude? “Entreated him earnestly”

- On behalf of whom? His little daughter
- What was wrong with her? She was at the point of death
- What did he want Jesus to do? Heal her (lay his hands on her)
- Jairus may have been the leader of the synagogue in *Luke 7.2-5* who asked Jesus to heal the servant of the centurion at Capernaum

V 24 – What was the reaction of Jesus? He left with Jairus

Mark 5.25-34 (a miracle within a miracle here)

V 25 – What was wrong with this woman? Uncontrolled bleeding for 12 years (menstrual discharge) – a very serious problem

- Notice that her condition had lasted as long as this little girl had been alive

V 26 – What did Mark record about the doctors of the day? They had not helped at all (things had gotten worse)

- It is very interesting that in Luke's account (*Luke 8.43*), he did not mention "doctors," but that she had not been healed by "anyone"
- We see that the inspired writers could still demonstrate their personal writing preferences, and Luke (as a medical doctor) did not want to mention the failure of doctors – very interesting!

V 27 – What did this woman do? Touched the robe of Jesus from behind him

V 28 – Why would she have thought that just touching Jesus would cause her to be healed?

Because Jesus had just touched the leper, and the leper was healed (*Mark 1*)

V 29 – Notice “and immediately” (so characteristic of Mark – always in a hurry)

- She was instantly healed, and the flow of her blood stopped
- She knew that she had been healed

V 30 - What was the reaction of Jesus at this point? He knew that he had healed someone

-If Jesus knew all things, then why did he have to ask who had been healed? Because he did not want to embarrass this woman - he wanted her to come forward on her own

V 31 – What did the Apostles think about Jesus’ question? A crazy thing to ask

- There were thousands of people who had been touching Jesus

V 32 – Interesting that Jesus looked at her (remember when he looked at Peter after the denial)

- His look was one that people could feel
- It was a penetrating and amazing look

V 33 – What did this woman do? Came and fell down at the feet of Jesus and admitted that she had been healed

V 34 – Jesus blessed her because of her faith

Mark 5.35-43

V 35 – Imagine how worried Jairus was when Jesus was taking his time with this woman

- Jairus must have been afraid that his daughter would die
- What happened at this time?** His daughter did die
- What was the comment of the people who brought him the news?** “Don’t bother Jesus anymore.”
- They thought it would just annoy Jesus

V 36 – **What was the statement of Jesus to the official from the synagogue?** Don’t be afraid, just believe

- Why should they have not been afraid any longer?** The fear of death was removed by Jesus

V 37 - **Whom did Jesus allow to go with him to see Jairus’ daughter?** Peter, James, John (the “inner three”)

- Why wouldn’t he want to take all the Apostles with him?** Some were better learners than others and had more potential to profit from this event
- They were leaders among the apostles
- Also, 12 men gathered around her might have frightened her when she came back to life

V 38 – **What were the people doing when Jesus got to the house of Jairus?** Crying loudly (great sorrow when a child dies)

V 39 – **What did Jesus tell them when he got there?** She was just asleep

- The English word “cemetery” is from the Greek word meaning “to sleep.”
- In what sense is death just a sleep?** It is temporary

V 40 – **What was the reaction of the mourners to Jesus’ statement?** Laughed at him

- Whom did Jesus allow into the room with the dead girl?** Parents, 3 apostles, Jesus – no-one else

V 41 – These were the words of Jesus in the Aramaic language (the language they were probably speaking here)

- Notice that Mark translates for his readers (remember that he is writing for the professional Romans, and they would not have known Aramaic)
- What a beautiful statement that Jesus made to the little girl here!

V 42 – Notice that Mark again used the word “*immediately*”

- Interesting: Mark gives us her age (12)
- Reaction of the people there?** Astonished

V 43 – **Two commandments of Jesus here?**

1. No-one should tell others about this (Jesus did not want the Jews to make him a political king because of miracles like this)
 2. Give the girl something to eat
- Why did he have to ask that food be given to her?** Compassion for her, and also to prove that she was really alive

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