



Mark 5

An OCF Bible Study

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After crossing the lake, Jesus was immediately confronted by a demon possessed man. Demons have all the theological facts. The demons knew the true identity of Jesus—the Son of the Most High God—better than the religious leaders did. **They knew who Jesus is, but they are missing what?** The right heart. A surrendered heart, as opposed to a prideful, rebellious heart **If they know the truth, what is getting in their way of trusting the One they know about?** Angels are created beings. They rebelled and rejected their creator. Now they are separated from God. Unlike human beings, there is no plan of forgiveness and redemption for angels. God didn't become an angel and die for their sins. Once they've gone over to the dark side there is no returning.

Why were the demons so terrified of Jesus (v. 7)? They feared being tortured. They knew who He was. They knew that He had power over them and would judge them: *Even the demons believe—and shudder! (James 2:19).*

What is the demon's name (v. 9)? Legion.

What is the significance of the word Legion? When they replied, "Legion," they really weren't saying a name; they were implying a number. A Roman legion usually consisted of 6,000 men. The implication is that there were a lot of them. They were simply trying to intimidate Jesus with their large number.

There was a herd of 2,000 pigs there. What does that tell us about the area (v. 13)? This was a Gentile area. Decapolis (v. 20) is also a non-Hebrew (Greek) name.

How did the Gerasenes react to Jesus after the exorcism (v. 17)? They asked Him to leave their area. **Why?** They were afraid (v. 15). Fear of the unknown—this this the first time they had seen or perhaps even heard of Jesus. They didn't understand who He was. Coupled with their financial concern over losing 2,000 pigs.

In the past Jesus has told demons and people He has healed to be quiet/not to tell anyone. Why did He instruct this man to go tell others about what the Lord had done for him (v. 19)? Apparently there was little danger in this Gentile region that the people would create problems for Jesus' mission, as they did cause in Jewish territory¹ where the Jews were waiting for a Messiah. If the Jews realized who Jesus was, there could be an outright revolution to install Him as a political king, which would interfere with the timeline of His three-year journey to the Cross. Here among the Gentiles, He is not worried about any kind of uprising that could have any potential impact on His schedule. Perhaps He also wanted to spread the news that although He came primarily for the Jews, He was also here for the Gentiles.

Application: **Why did Jesus cross the lake?** His story showed the value of one life to Jesus, because this was the only reason why Jesus came to this side of the Sea of Galilee. And each one of us is just as important in the eyes of Jesus as that demon possessed man. His story also showed that with Jesus, no one is beyond hope or unimportant, because if this demon-possessed man could be changed, then anyone can.

The story of Jairus (vv. 21-24, 35-43)

How would you describe the mindset of Jairus (vv. 21-24)? Desperate yet confident in Jesus' ability. God often uses desperation to draw us to Himself. Jairus, a prominent Jewish leader, falls at the feet of this "podunk rabbi" in a sign of true humility.

Jesus, on His way to Jairus' home, is diverted by the bleeding woman (vv. 35-43). Put yourself in Jairus' shoes. He is worried about his daughter in critical condition at home, her life slipping away. Then he gets the message, "Your daughter is dead." God is never late, but He often seems slow to the sufferer, the waiting, the needy.

Jesus tells Jairus to do what two things (v. 36)? First, stop being afraid. Secondly, Jesus told Jairus to only believe. **What was it that Jairus was supposed to believe?** Believe in Jesus. Believe that Jesus was in control of his daughter's life. The Greek word for "believe" is the verb form of the word for "faith." In that sense, believe is more than just mental assent, such as believing in the historical Jesus. Included in the word "believe" are the concepts of trust and commitment.

Do you deal with any fears in life? What is the antidote to fear? Put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ for _____ (fill in the blank). Allow God to be a big God.

How did Jesus raise the little girl from the dead (v. 41)? CPR? With the power of God, Jesus spoke this girl back to life from the dead, *Little girl, I say to you, arise.*

How did the crowd respond (v. 42)? Everyone was completely astonished at Jesus' power. The Greek word for "astonished" literally means they were "out of their minds" with great amazement.

(vv. 25-34) A woman is healed of a hemorrhage

How would you describe the mindset of the woman? She was in a desperate condition. Yet she is humble.

She had been suffering from what was probably a menstrual bleeding condition for twelve years! What impact would this condition have had on her daily life? She would be ceremonially and socially unclean. According to the Jewish law, if this woman touched anyone, she made that person ceremonially unclean, which would not allow that person to take part in any aspect of Israel's worship (Leviticus 15:19-31).

She was leading a life of rejection and loneliness: ostracized from all society, excommunicated from the synagogue services, shut out from the women's courts in the temple. She couldn't even come into contact with her old friends. Quite a burden to live under for twelve years!

When Jesus passed by she touched His cloak and was healed (vv. 27-29). He knew who she was but He made her go through this confession and identification exercise. The woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. **Why did Jesus take her through all this?**

- For the benefit of the woman. Jesus did it so that *she* would absolutely know that she was healed. That this was a legitimate permanent miracle. Otherwise she might begin to doubt. She might have thought, "I only touched His cloak. I wonder if that's good enough?"
- Jesus did it so *others* would know she was healed. This woman had an ailment that no one could see and which made her a public outcast. It would sound suspicious to many if she just announced that she was healed. They would think that she made it up just to be considered "clean" again.
- Jesus did it so that she would know *why* she was healed. When Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has healed you" it showed the woman that it really wasn't touching the clothing of Jesus that healed her. This was not about the cloak. It was all about the object of her faith.
- Jesus did it because He didn't want her to think that she *stole* a blessing, that she could never look Jesus in the eye again. She didn't steal anything, she received it by faith and Jesus wanted her to know that.
- Jesus did it because He wanted to bless her in a special way. **What did He call her?** "Daughter." Jesus never called any other person by this name. Jesus wanted her to hear this special name of tenderness.

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¹ Dr. Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Mark, 2014 Edition* (published by Sonic Light, www.soniclight.com), pp. 75