

8: Jesus - More Than a Man! (Mark 4:35-5:20)

What would you do if you witnessed a man command a raging storm to stop…and it did? - or free someone from the grip of thousands of demons?
Join us as we uncover two astonishing encounters in Mark 4:35–5:20 that reveal Jesus is MORE THAN A MAN - and discover why WHO HE IS changes EVERYTHING for YOU!

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teachingnotes

* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB).

Mark 4:35–38

On that day, when evening had come, he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the sea."
So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him.
A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.
He was in the stern, **sleeping on the cushion**. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?"

These men are DESPERATE! They can't imagine how Jesus is still asleep in this awfulweather! These are professional fisherman who spent their lives in this same body of water, yet are *now convinced that unless something changes, they are going to die*. How rough must the Sea of Galilee been on that day!!!

Mark 4:39

He got up, **rebuked the wind**, and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Jesus speaks to the wind and waves and says "**silence**!" - and it does! The wind immediately stops and the water gets slick. Do you think that what Jesus says next might just have their attention?

Mark 4:40-41

Then he said to them, "Why are you **afraid**? Do you still have **no faith**?"
And they were terrified and asked one another, "**Who then is this?** Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Jesus has already demonstrated through multiple miracles that He was no mere rabbi or prophet.
Jesus is altogether different from anyone else who has ever walked the earth!
They were **afraid**? *WHY? People are afraid of things they can't explain and they can't explain what just happened.*
*But **Jesus is no mere man***. Jesus has the authority & power that belongs to ONLY ONE - the God Who created all things.
This passage is reminiscent of Psalm 107 speaking of men on ships who face a stormy wind and waves, causing their courage to melt away.

Psalm 107:27

They reeled and staggered like a drunkard, and all their skill was useless. Then they cried to Yahweh in their trouble, and **He brought them out** of their distress.H**e stilled the storm to a whisper**, and **the waves of the sea were hushed**. They rejoiced when the waves grew quiet. Then he guided them to the harbor they longed for.

Some think this miraculous memory shows that those who follow Jesus can call out to Him and expect all of the 'storms' of their lives to instantly be stilled. But this is certainly NOT what happened in the apostles' lives, at least not consistently.

- *R*emember Peter released from prison in the middle of the night by an angel (Acts 12:6–11).
- But do you remember what happened before that? James, the brother of John and another apostle of Jesus - was BEHEADED because of His faith in Jesus (Acts 12:1–2).

In the midst of being imprisoned and thinking they BOTH might die they might have remembered the moment when THEIR SKILL that could save them, but JESUS ALONE who could calm the storm.

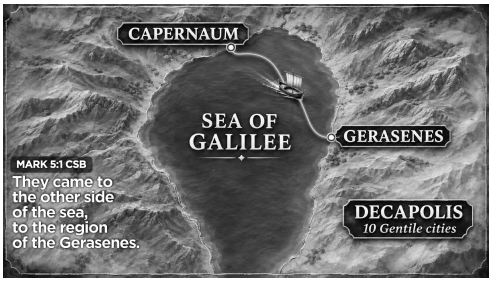
BOTH would eventually be executed for their faith in Jesus - James by the sword, and Peter by the cross. Yet even in death, "**He** [Jesus] **guided them to the harbor they longed for**" (Ps 107:30).

✝ Those who trust in Jesus have the future hope of rising from the dead - just as Jesus did! Paul wrote: if our hope in Jesus is only for THIS side of eternity, we should be pitied (1 Cor 15:19). But, of course, our hope is found in LIFE beyond this life!

Mark 5:1-5

They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. As soon as he got out of the boat, **a man with an unclean spirit** came out of the tombs and met Him. **He lived in the tombs**, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain—because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was **always crying** out and **cutting himself with stones**.

The region of the Gerasenes was primarily Gentile territory on the east side of the Sea of Galilee.



- **David Garland**: "As Jesus disembarks from the boat, he immediately locks horns with another person in the grip of demons. Wherever Jesus goes, his holy presence, like some chemical catalyst, triggers an immediate reaction from the unholy."[1]

Everyone recognized that it was **the unclean spirit** within him that spawned these crazy actions and incredible strength. He was like a wild animal who could not be captured. This man had been so distorted and twisted by these demons that he acted like a wild animal rather than a person made ***in the image of God***.

Despite not being able to be constrained by other people, watch how this demon-possessed man responds to the presence of Jesus.

Mark 5:6–8

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and **knelt down before Him**. And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, **Jesus, Son of the Most High God**? I beg you before God, don't torment me!" For he had told him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

WHO is in control of this situation?

The unclean spirit inside of this man recognizes WHO **Jesus** is: **Son of the Most High God**. Throughout this Gospel, the demons KNOW Who Jesus is (Mk 1:24, 3:11). In fact, this is what Mark opens up with: "The beginning of the gospel of **Jesus Christ, the Son of God**." (Mk 1:1) Jesus - **the Son** - has a UNIQUE relationship with **the Most High God**. Jesus shares the Honors, Attributes, Names, Deeds, & Seat (HANDS) of the Most Hight God

This is why the demon(s) are afraid, knowing that Jesus has the authority to **torment**/torture them by sending them to a place of punishment that awaits them for eternity.

Mark 5:9–10

"What is your name?" he asked him. "My name is **Legion**," he answered him, "because **we are many**."
And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region.

Legion was a Roman term for around 6,000 trained soldiers, so this language communicated a large number of battle-tested demons, ready for a fight. They is not just one demon in this man, but **many**!

- **Kent Hughes**: "A host of evil spirits leered upon Christ from behind the poor man's wild eyes."[2]

These **many** unclean spirits understood Jesus had authority over them - that **they were about to be evicted from their home**. These unclean spirits **begged** Jesus not to send them far away.

Mark 5:11–13

A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. The demons begged **Him**, "Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them." So He gave them permission, and the **unclean spirits** came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

Send us to the pigs. This was clearly NOT a Jewish region, as pigs were considered unclean (Lev. 11:7; Deut. 14:8), never to be eaten, and certainly not farmed. Jesus gives **permission** for the *UNCLEAN SPIRITS* to enter the *UNCLEAN ANIMALS.*
This wild and crazy man has been set free!

WHO is in charge here?

Just as Jesus calmed the weather, Jesus calmed the man, & kicked out these fallen angels - and Jesus is - ***the CREATOR all creation*** (Col 1:16).

Mark 5:14-16

The men who tended them ran off and reported it in the town and the countryside, and people went to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and **saw the man** who had been demon-possessed, sitting there, **dressed and in his right mind**; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and told about the pigs.

Afraid? *WHY?* The disciples were terrified when they witnessed Jesus' authority over the storm. The townspeople were afraid when they witnessed His authority over demons. In both accounts, people encounter power they cannot explain or control.

Maybe they are afraid that Jesus has come to curse their businesses too.

Maybe they are just afraid and uncomfortable of this strange & powerful Jewish man who had landed on their shores.

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[1] David E. Garland, Mark, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 202–3.
[2] R. Kent Hughes, Mark: Jesus, Servant and Savior, vol. 1, Preaching the Word (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 120.

Mark 5:17-19
Then they began to beg him to leave their region. As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged him **earnestly that he might remain with Him**. Jesus did not let him but told him, "Go home to your own people, and **report to them how much the Lord has done for you** and how he has had mercy on you."

Is Jesus worthy of our lives? This transformed man sure thought so! He believed that ***LIFE with the KING was worth WHATEVER the cost!*** Remember when others talked about wanting to follow Jesus, but ultimately chose to stay home instead? NOT THIS MAN! He was ready to shove off and follow Jesus wherever He went.

But THIS TIME Jesus says something different. ***Jesus wants this man to be His disciple, but to stay home*** and tell others of the Lord's graciousness. His transformed life was to be a testimony about WHO Jesus was.

- Three responses to Jesus: Amazement (disciples), Rejection (Gentiles), and Devotion (transformed man).

Mark 5:20
So he went out and began to **proclaim** in the Decapolis **how much Jesus had done for him**, and they were all amazed.

Jesus tells him, "Go home to your own people." And what is he supposed to tell them? How much **the Lord** has done for him and how much mercy he's shown him. But ***Mark highlights something VERY IMPORTANT*** - the man went out and told people how much **JESUS** had done for him.

- **Jesus IS** "**the Lord**" - God in skin!

The people might have pushed Jesus away, but they didn't push this formerly demon-possessed man away. ***They KNEW who HE was before this.*** His transformational story **amazed** them as he spoke about **how much Jesus had done for him**!

This man had encountered JESUS! And Jesus is MORE THAN A MAN!

WHO IS JESUS...TO YOU?

For most of us, the greatest task we are called to do is not to cross the ocean and share the good news with strangers in different cultures, but we are called to go to our homes, to go to our communities, and to share with others how much the Lord Jesus has done for us! May we share with them why Jesus is worthy of their lives, because ***Jesus is MORE THAN A MAN - Jesus is God in Skin!***

- ***Who is one person in your life you could tell about a specific way Jesus has shown you mercy?***

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
* Or call our **deacons & wives**: **Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Noel & Patricia Barnes** (813-767-2881), **Derek & Emily Beaty** (813-763-4421), or **Chris & Caitlin Day** (850-673-7920), **Glen & Margie Peacock** (850-464-1484).

Discussionquestions

These questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your family, friends, or small group.

1. **Read Mark 4:35–41**. Why do you think the disciples were even more terrified after Jesus calmed the storm? How does **Psalm 107:23–30** help us understand WHO Jesus really is?
2. Jesus asked His disciples, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40). What had the disciples already witnessed that should have strengthened their faith? How can remembering what Jesus has done help us trust Him when we face frightening circumstances?
3. Peter was miraculously rescued from prison, while James was executed for following Jesus (Acts 12:1–11). What do these contrasting outcomes teach us about trusting Jesus? Why is it important to remember that following Jesus does not guarantee freedom from suffering?
4. **Read Mark 5:1–20**. What does Jesus' encounter with the demon-possessed man reveal about His authority? How was this man's life transformed, and what does his transformation teach us about the power and mercy of Jesus?
5. The townspeople begged Jesus to LEAVE, while the restored man begged to FOLLOW Him (Mark 5:17–18). Why do you think they responded so differently? What might cause people today to push Jesus away rather than surrender their lives to Him?
6. Jesus told the restored man to go home and tell others how much the Lord had done for him (Mark 5:19–20).How has Jesus demonstrated His mercy in YOUR life? Who is one person you could tell this week about what Jesus has done for you?