

Walking with Jesus Part 2 “The Power of Turning”

Mark 4

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” **36** Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. **37** A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. **38** Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

39 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!”

- The total calm of the sea should have filled them with peace, but instead, they were just as afraid when He calmed the storm as when they were in the midst of it.
- The disciples ask a good question: **Who is this?** It can only be the LORD.

Psalm 89:8-9

O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness surrounds You. You rule the raging of the sea; when waves rise, You still them.

Vs. 39

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

Jesus didn't merely quiet the wind and the sea; He rebuked it. Matthew 8:26 says “**He rebuked the winds and the sea.**”

- This leads some to believe that there was some type of spiritual attack in the storm and it was a form of spiritual resistance working against Jesus.
- Jesus rebukes the wind and speaks to the waves, because they were working to keep him from his next assignment.

Mark 5

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. **2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. **3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, 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.**

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? In God's name don't torture me!” **8** For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure 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.

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 impure 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.

14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

15 When 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.

- It's amazing the extent the devil went to maintain a stronghold in this mans life...
- Jesus faced what the disciples considered a life threatening storm to get to him...
- But the ministry and appointments of the Lord are divinely lead...
- Jesus never flinched...
- Jesus never feared...
- Jesus was headed straight to the man that everyone avoided and had abandoned and on his way was peacefully asleep in the boat...
- But Hell fears the presence and purpose of Jesus...
- Jesus steps foot on the shore of what the Devil considered his secure property...

Vs. 4,5

...No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

That day, Mercy came running...

Grace stepped on the shore of this mans life, and there was nothing Hell could do to stop it...

Notice something...

Vs. 6

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.

I'm so glad the story went like that and it doesn't say that he ran further back into the forrest and hid further from Jesus...

The Bible says, "He ran and fell on his knees in front of him."

- **This was his turning point...**
- **There was demonic manifestation...**
- **There were demons that came out of this man and into the pigs...**
- **But the part I love is Vs. 15**

Vs.15 When 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;

There was power when the Gadarene Demoniac turned to Jesus...

The Miracle happened when he turned...

2 Kings 5

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

2 Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. **3** She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. **5** "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. **6** The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." **9** So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. **10** Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. **12** Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the

waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" **14** So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel.

There are a couple things that work against Naaman here.

- One Naaman became offended because it didn't go the way he expected it... He says "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy."
- Second Naaman compares the Jordan river to the rivers of Damascus and nearly forfeits a miracle. He is still looking at the outward and not realizing his miracle lies in his ability to be humble and obedient, it's not in his own human reasoning...

But there is one thing working in Naaman's favor and that is Naaman's Servant...

Notice in this story the two people who turn Naaman towards the Lord are Servants, first the servant girl and now the servant with him on the journey.

Vs. 13

Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!"

Vs. 14

So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

The most powerful words in this story are "So he went down..."

Naaman could have packed his bags and gone home... but the Bible says he went down and did the very thing the prophet told him to do...

Naaman turned and it saved his life...

The Miracle happened because he Turned...

Mark 10

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.'"

20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! **25** It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.”

28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!”

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel **30** will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

- The Rich Young Ruler never experienced what was in God’s hand, because he never let go of what was in his...

Vs. 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

- The young man considered the cost to be too great...
- He was given the opportunity to follow Jesus and he walked away...
- Jesus says for those who do turn and trust him there is a blessing:

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel **30** will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.

There is power when we work with God in what he is doing...

There is power we turn his direction...

- The man at the pool of Bethesda...
- The woman with the issue of blood...