

Mark 5 – 9 May 2021

“Valuing The Right Things”

Introduction

- *Jesus has begun travelling thru Galilee in the north
- *Preaching all should repent & prepare for the Kingdom
- *We all want a sense of belonging, not to feel misplaced
- *To get a sense of belonging, it starts way earlier
 - *Belief -> Behavior -> Belonging
- *But how do we develop our beliefs?
 - *We should gain reasons to believe a thing
- *How do we know we truly believe a thing?
 - *We value it more and more
 - *Value & belief are directly proportional to one other
 - *As you believe a thing, you value it more
 - *You value a thing more as you believe it more
- *Jesus has come to challenge the traditional earthly value system (Read Matt 5:27-29)
 - *Isn't your eternal soul more valuable than an eye?

So today we'll see 3 challenges to what we value, prioritize and believe

Jesus' 1st challenge to your beliefs: Do you value the eternal over your economy (Vs 1-20)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Gadarenes were descendants of tribe of Gad that settled for God's 2nd best (eastside Jordan)
 - a. We'll see these men raised pigs, not kosher
 - b. This whole region was called Decapolis
2. They didn't find a demon that needs attention
 - a. They found a man that needed help
 - b. Men can be saved & changed, demons can't
 - c. Demon's destiny is set & they know it

So, what is the demon like? – Read Vs 3-6

1. *Lived among death* – Christians represent eternal life to the world, not death
2. *Had unusual physical strength* – Christians are renewed w/ spiritual strength, not physical
3. *Was out of control* – Christians show the fruit of self-control not spontaneous living for today

4. *Committed self-harm* – Christians represent hope for tomorrow, not depression
5. *Came to Jesus immediately* – Christians come to Jesus out of thankfulness, not from compulsion to Jesus' overwhelming power and authority
6. Both the demonic realm and Christians are seeing life with the eternal view in mind

Read Vs 7-8

1. What does the unclean demon know?
 - a. They know Jesus is the Son of God
 - b. They know that they have limited time
 - c. They know their ultimate destiny
2. They've accepted these eternal realities, but that doesn't mean that they agree with them

Read Vs 9-12

1. This is 1st case of deviled ham? Ha
2. What does the unclean demon want?
 - a. Not to leave the people of this country
 - i. They're on mission to hinder men's souls

- b. To go into the pigs
 - i. This would allow them to stay in country
 - ii. Read Matt 12:43-45 – Demons of this world are seeking to infiltrate souls to hinder them
 1. “Greater is He who is in you, than he that is in the world”

Read Vs 13

1. Some get hung up on the loss of these pigs
 - a. They can't believe Jesus would allow this
2. Remember though, pigs weren't Kosher & Jews shouldn't have even had them in 1st place
3. Also, animals are here to serve us: they just got turned into bacon sooner than they planned
4. If you're still thinking about the poor piggies, then you're over-valuing the pigs & undervaluing the man that was saved.
 - a. It's unjust value unequal things equally
 - b. If your house is burning and your only have time to save your goldfish or your child...

Read Vs 14-16

1. This is the story of the man AND also the story of the pigs that was relayed to the men of the city.
 - a. Which story will be of interest to them?
 - b. If the healed man was a stranger & the pigs were your livelihood, what matters to you?

Read Vs 17-18

1. Two reactions
 - a. Spiritually minded (those who care for the man) want Jesus to stay
 - b. Carnally minded (those who care about the pigs) want Jesus to leave
2. Many people today weep for the wrong things
 - a. These pigs (their lifestyle) doesn't go into eternity, but this man's soul will!

Read Vs 19-20

1. When Jesus has affected you, you must tell others
2. The Lord IS Jesus

Jesus' 2nd challenge to your beliefs: Do you value publicity over your privacy (Vs 21-34)

Read Vs 21-22

1. This ruler has humbled himself
2. It would be very easy to stay away from Jesus, in pride, and not publicize his need.
 - a. One of the biggest things that keeps people from Jesus is the inability to publicize their vulnerability and needs. (private people)
 - b. We all have them – Bring them to Jesus

Read Vs 23-24

1. “Lay Thy hands on her” – This is the stage of maturity of his faith.
2. He had faith to believe in Jesus, but believed that there needed to be contact for a miracle

Read Vs 25-26

1. 12 years of isolation (religious & social)
2. Many things of many docs = no satisfaction
3. Year after year of no help, makes you withdraw into your own private hole

Read Vs 27-28

1. Just as Jairus, her faith was mature enough to believe Jesus could handle this, but limited Him to a certain method
2. Some criticize Peter for sinking after getting onto the lake water.
 - a. Some recognize that at least he had the faith to get out of the boat.
3. Let's give each other the grace to grow in faith

Read Vs 29-32

1. Jesus is looking for the one in the crowd
2. If you're afraid to stand out in a crowd b/c of your pursuit of Jesus, you'll never receive the grace He has for you

Read Vs 33-34

1. Jesus brought her faith to the public's attention
2. Let our faith shine – shouldn't be hidden
3. Jesus's calling her to public faith.

Jesus' 3rd challenge to your beliefs: Do you value maturity over your method (Vs 35-43)

Read Vs 35-36

1. Was Jairus bothered that Jesus stopped for the women?
2. Jesus is challenging Jairus to go deeper in his faith than just believing in a “living touch”
 - a. Jesus can even “command the dead”
3. We should always be challenging ourselves w/ the question: “how much do we believe Jesus?”
 - a. Can Jesus only do wonderful things by the method you have stuck in your head?
 - b. This should give us patience to endure!

Read Vs 37-40

1. The laughing, mocking unbelievers & those that enter in to see great things (You are 1 or other)
2. Put out the unbelievers so there's no distraction from the work
3. Your faith will be laughed at by others, b/c they can't see what you can see

Read Vs 41-43

1. All 3 times Jesus raises the dead, it's by His Word
 - a. Widow's son, Lazarus and Jairus' daughter
 - b. The Word of God brings new life
2. When given new life: arose, walked and needed to eat
 - a. And this is the same spiritually when we're born again
3. Jesus's call to Jairus is for him to follow, not lead
 - a. Sometimes we have the kind of faith that wants to tell Jesus just how to do it
 - b. Jesus wants us to trust His way
4. Jesus wants us to grow in maturity
 - a. Exp story: Abraham thinks he has to use Hagar, but should have waited for Sarah
 - b. The harder road often brings greater results for the kingdom but takes greater faith.

Conclusion

So, today, have you been challenged? Do you value the right things in life?

- 1. Do you value the eternal over your economy?**
 - a. Even demons see the value in human souls
 - b. Look for people not the product
 - c. Be producing fruit not frivolousness
- 2. Do you value publicity over your privacy?**
 - a. Jesus is looking for evangelists that will share the message of saving faith to others
 - b. Allow His amazing grace in your life to prompt you into motion to help others
- 3. Do you value maturity over your method?**
 - a. There are a lot of frustrated people that don't like letting Jesus lead. They want to.
 - b. Do you believe that whatever He allows is best for you?
 - i. This is what growing in grace is all about
 - ii. Coming to believe that Jesus knows best