



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 13

"The Demoniac & the Messiah"

5-9-21

Introduction: Demons/Unclean Spirits

- During His earthly ministry, the Lord interacted with certain beings referred to as 'unclean spirits' or 'demons.' We rightly understand these as spiritual beings who are personal in nature and evil in character. From Scripture we learn that they are fallen angles (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6) who serve the rebellious ends of Satan (Mark 3:22) and that their ultimate end is judgment (Matt. 25:41)
- In terms of their activities, they oppose the work of God (Acts 16:16-18), promoting idolatry (Psa. 106:36-38) and false religion (1 John 4:1-4). They also afflict people (Matt. 9:33; 12:22), promote perversion (Deut. 18:9-14), and can at times even be involved in possession, which Charles Ryrie defines as follows:

"A demon residing in a person, exerting direct control and influence over that person, with certain derangement of mind and/or body. [It] is to be distinguished from demon influence or...activity in relation to a person. The work of the demon in the latter is from the outside; in demon possession it is from within. By this definition a Christian cannot be possessed by a demon since he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit."

—Charles Ryrie (Quoted in The Moody Handbook of Theology)

Key Point: If the calming of the storm caused the disciples to question who Jesus truly was, His encounter with the Gerasene demoniac gave the emphatic answer that He was the Son of the Most High God who had come to _____ the works of the devil and bring freedom to the captives.

The Deliverance of the Gerasene Demoniac

- **Having crossed the sea, Jesus and His followers came to an area that was primarily inhabited by _____.**

Mark 5:1—*They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.*

⇒ The precise location that is referred to within the passage is hard to identify, particularly when the account is compared to that of Matthew who mentions the country of the 'Gadarenes.' The likely sight was to the northeast portion of the sea near Gergesa (modern day El Kursi).

"Mark's ['Gerasenes'] therefore probably represents either a loose use of the term generally for the whole of the Decapolis...of which Gerasa was a leading city, or simply a confusion of similar names, the better known substituting for the obscure Gergesa."

—R.T. France, *Mark*

- **Having come ashore, Jesus was confronted by a man possessed by an unclean spirit.**

Mark 5:2-3—²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain...

Observations

1. The man lived in a state of perpetual _____.
2. No one possessed the strength or ability to _____ him.
3. The man was _____ from the community of his people.

Key Point: In many ways, this man was representative of the spiritual condition of the entire _____.

- **Then account focuses in on how Jesus interacted with the unclean spirit.**

Mark 4:30-32—⁶And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

Observations

1. The man's posture before Jesus was a recognition of His _____ as the Son of the Most High God.
2. The demons fear that Jesus has come to bring _____ ("torment") upon them.

- **Jesus then exercised His authority over the demons in order to deliver the man from their control.**

Mark 5:9-13—⁹And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³So he gave them permission.

Observations

1. Jesus did not need to identify Himself to the demons but He _____ that He be given their name.
2. They then _____ Jesus to allow them to enter a herd of pigs which He did and which they then destroyed.

Key Point: In the exercise of His authority, Jesus effected a cleansing of both the _____ and the _____.

"From a Jewish perspective, the pigs' plunge into the sea is fully merited. A human being is cleansed, and impure spirits and unclean animals are both wiped out."
—David Garland, *A Theology of Mark's Gospel*

- **The people of the region responded to the exercise of Jesus' power with fear and suspicion.**

Mark 5:14-17—¹⁴ *The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened.*
¹⁵ *And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid.*

Observations

1. The results of Jesus' powerful works within their midst caused them to be _____.
2. Rather than invite Him to do more miraculous works among them, they asked Him to _____ from them.

- **Upon leaving, the man who had been delivered from the legion sought to come with Jesus.**

Mark 5:18-20—¹⁸ *As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him.*
¹⁹ *And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."* ²⁰ *And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.*

⇒ Rather than permit the man to accompany Him, He sent him back to his people in order that He might proclaim among them the great things that the Lord had done.

Key Point: Although Jesus refused to allow the man to come with them, He _____ him to proclaim the salvation that He had come to bring to the world.

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God

1. **Mark wants his readers to see that Messiah who calms the storm to deliver His people Israel (Psa. 107:29-31) is willing to bring His salvation to the gentiles as well!**

Isa. 65:1-4—¹ *I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that was not called by my name.* ² *I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices;* ³ *a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and making offerings on bricks;* ⁴ *who sit in tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat pig's flesh, and broth of tainted meat is in their vessels;*

2. **Mark wants his readers to recognize who Jesus truly is (*the Son of the Most High God*) and to respond to Him in the manner of the man rather than that of the people of the region.**

"he begged him that he might be with him"

"And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region."

Concluding Thought

- **Not everyone responds to the power and authority of the Lord Jesus in the same way or for the same reason.**

Demons — The Lord constrains or permits them according to His own plans and _____.

James 2:19—*You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*

Unbelievers — The Lord is a threat to their way of life and so He must therefore be _____.

Rom. 1:21—*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Believers — Jesus' authority is a blessing that brings deliverance and compels joyful _____.

1 Pet. 1:17-19—¹⁷ *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,* ¹⁸ *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,* ¹⁹ *but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.*