

Who Approaches Jesus

Mark Chapter 5

In this Chapter we'll see 3 People who come to Jesus

- The Man Who Couldn't Find Salvation In Friends and Family
- The Woman Who Tried Everything Else
- The Man Who's Religion Didn't Offer Life

Mar 5:1 1) A Man Who's Friends Family and Neighbors Can't Help vs 1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes.

- Here they went to the country of Gerasenes. Not the City. The City is Gerasa or Gergesa or Gadara (the later not in scripture)
- This area was where Gad and the ½ tribe of Manassa settled not wanting to press into where God had given them a promised land.
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- The shore of that region met the hills that were steep and tombs were carved into those steep hills.

Mar 5:2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him,

- Often times as we are sent to do the ministry that Jesus sends us to do, opposition arrives. And often times it may be quite quickly. The purpose of this is to distract or even stop the work of the Lord.
- Knowing this happens your options are:
 - Don't go.
 - Go but avoid.
 - Go and do what you can until you are stopped
 - Go, engage and fulfill all the Lord has to do. (We might find out that it was this opposition that the Lord was sending us to deal with.)
- Where do Demons come from and Are they real?
 - 3 main theoris concerning Demons
 - 1) Judiasm believes they are disembodied spirits of evil people who have died
 - 2) the spirits of the Nephilim who died in the flood.
 - 3) the fallen angels who rebelled against God with Satan. (Rev 12:3-4 + 7-9) ***
 - Are they real? The Bible teaches they are real and here are some facts found in scripture.
 - 1) They are spiritual beings (Matt 8:16 10:1 12:43-45)
 - 2) They are at enmity with God and have certain power over man (James 2:19 Rev 16:14)
 - 3) They recognize Jesus as the Son of God (Mat 8:29 Luke 4:41)
 - 4) They are fallen angels (Matt 25:41 Rev 12:7-9)
 - 5) They are principalities and powers against which we must wrestle (Eph 6:12)
 - 6) They know their end (Matt 8:29)
 - 7) They inhabit living flesh and their goal is to kill or destroy (Mark 5 John 10:10)

No where in scripture does it teach that man makes deals with devils for a trade for special abilities or riches. Even in regards to witches and sorcerers there is not a mention that the control is in the human. 2 instances are clear where Saul seeks the witch of Endor (1 Sam 28:12) who has a familiar spirit who has a business with contacting the spirits to know the future. Yet she is surprised when it actually happened. It was not in her control. The issue is of control. Man does not have the control button when it come to demon possession. Man doesn't power them up then power them down. In possession the demon is in control. All else is a dangerous game in the mind of man that will lead to true possession and the demons goal is destruction.

Mar 5:3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain;

Mar 5:4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him.

Mar 5:5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones.

- Here we see this man had been bound foot and hand but with extra ordinary strength he simply tears

apart these bindings.

- NO ONE WAS STRONG ENOUGH TO SUBDUCE HIM The people of the area had done what they could with this man. But nothing helped him and nothing could contain him. Had the people of the region given up? Do they let him run so long as he doesn't hurt anyone?
- There are acts of the flesh that some people think that it is a demon or a spirit possessing them or buffeting them. No, they need to repent and confess their sin. Being demon possessed is obvious when a man is screaming day and night breaking chains and cutting himself.

Mar 5:6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;

- The man couldn't be bound by chains but is bound to God's Word
- Romans 14:11 "For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."
- James 2:19 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. " Demons are not atheists they believe in God and they know Jesus is the Messiah "

Mar 5:7 and shouting with a loud voice, he *said, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!"

- When a demon possessed man shouts with a loud voice it isn't to just be heard but to control and intimidate. Most would flee, some would try to capture and conquer but Jesus sees a man who has been violated and is in desperate need.
- Matthew 8 says "before the time" Demons understand an end for them is coming. They also believe in an eternal torment.

Mar 5:8 For He had been saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

Mar 5:9 And He was asking him, "What is your name?" And he *said to Him, "My name is Legion; for we are many."

- "And He was asking him" Jesus was asking him (singular) not plural. Jesus was talking to the man. He wanted to talk to the man. What is your name? How old are you? Do you have family in the area? Jesus was concerned about the man.
 - People have taken this one account and have developed a rule for casting out demons that you need to have a conversation with the demon. NO! NO! NO! (conversation meaning an exchange of information)
 - Demons and the devil are liars and the father of lies so what is the benefit of a conversation?
 - Jesus commands the unclean spirit to come out! No conversations.
 - Approach a demon to cast out. Get in a conversation and you'll doubt.
 - There is not any other example where a conversation between a man and a demon takes place. Actually there is an example where Jesus was teaching His disciple saying these come out only by pray and fasting. Mark 9:29 The conversation is between man and God not man and the demon.
 - But the demon did answer instead of the man.
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- The demon says "We are Legion for we are many." This proves the uselessness of a conversation. He says Legion. A Legion was 6000 When cast out only 2000 swine were available. I believe the demon was exaggeration to intimidate. But the reality was there were man demons. If it were true that a conversation is part of the excercisim then Jesus would have been there quite awhile doing interviews before he cast each one out.

Mar 5:10 And he {began} to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country.

Mar 5:11 Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain.

Mar 5:12 {The demons} implored Him, saying, "Send us into the swine so that we may enter them."

- These swine, unclean animals, should not have been there. This was the promised land but this area had become the area of Decapolis. The area of 10 (Gentile) cities. We do not know if these were gentile owned and raised or apostate Jewish owned and raised.

Mar 5:13 Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand {of them;} and they were drowned in the sea.

- This is very telling of the goal of demons and the devil with regard to who they posses. They desire to destroy. Suicide is demonic. These enter the swine not to go wild grazing in the slop but to destroy them. 1) The devil entered into Judas and he hanged himself, 2) the devil tempted Jesus to cast

himself down, 3) in Mark 9 the demon possessed boy would be cast down in the sea or the fire. 4) This account the demons killed the swine.

Mar 5:14 Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And {the people} came to see what it was that had happened.

- A second running. To bad it is away from Jesus and not to Him.

Mar 5:15 They *came to Jesus and *observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the "legion"; and they became frightened.

- The herdsmen and the towns people observe this man they couldn't subdue was sitting with Jesus CLOTHED, SITTING IN HIS RIGHT MIND. He had been subdued by the grace of God.
- This grace is powerful! Able to subdue the stubborn rebellion. Able to calm the raging storm in the heart of a raging man. Able to make the one who had many single minded on Jesus.
- To the unbelieving and to those who do not want this grace it is a fearful power.

Mar 5:16 Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and {all} about the swine.

Mar 5:17 And they began to implore Him to leave their region.

Mar 5:18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him.

Mar 5:19 And He did not let him, but He *said to him, "Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and {how} He had mercy on you."

- In this passage 3 requests made of Jesus
 - vs 12 the demons request of Jesus to be cast into the swine Jesus says "OK"
 - vs 17 the towns people implore Jesus to leave Jesus says "OK"
 - vs 18+19 the man who was delivered, sitting in his right mind and a believer implores Jesus to allow him to accompany Him Jesus says "NO"
- Go show your people, people who knows your story, who you are, tell them your story. Tell them of the mercy of the Lord.

Mar 5:20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

- He began to preach in his home.
- Mark 7-8 tells us that Jesus returned to the area later and crowds of 4000 people came to greet Him.
- The man who experienced the deliverance and Grace of Jesus obeyed and told others of the wonderful savior who visited him one day.

Mar 5:21 **2) Woman Who Tried Everything Else** vs 21-34 (really begins in verse 25)

When Jesus had crossed over again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around Him; and so He stayed by the seashore.

- Travels back towards Capernaum -- He leaves the Gentile side and goes back to the Jewish side.

Mar 5:22 One of the synagogue officials named **Jairus** *came up, and on seeing Him, *fell at His feet

Mar 5:23 and *implored Him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death; {please} come and lay Your hands on her, so that she will get well and live."

- Jairus was a synagogue official. He was the logistics officer. Opened doors locked doors, scheduled rabbis. Back in Chapter 1, Jesus healed a man with a withered hand, He probably was there and witnessed the entire thing.
- Notice how he approached Jesus. Maybe there is a lesson there
 - He Sought Jesus in his Crisis. "Jairus came up"
 - He Humbled himself before Jesus "fell at His feet"
 - He Made his Request Known "implored Him" begging
 - He Believed in Faith in Jesus "lay Your hands on her so she will get well and live."

- At this point there was animosity between Jesus and the Pharisees from Jerusalem. That animosity grew so large on the side of the Pharisees that they wanted to put Jesus to death. So it wasn't a good career move to come and bow down before Jesus.
- When Jesus went off with Jairus you could just see this synagogue walking a little ahead of Jesus trying to make a way for Him through the crowd. His 12 year old daughter was at the point of death.

Mar 5:24 And He went off with him; and a large crowd was following Him and pressing in on Him.

- Pressing or Thronged had a connection to suffocating.

Mar 5:25 A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years,

Mar 5:26 and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse--

- In the crowd was a woman who had a hemorrhage for 12 years.
- Doctors have treated her, and treated her and could not come up with a cure. (Luke 8)
- After all her resources are spent, she is now worse off than at first.
- Other troubles for this woman.
 - Lev 15:19-31 teaches about a woman's issue of blood. That they are unclean and anyone who touches her or she touches is unclean. It also speaks of a 7 day separation and a cleansing ritual. "And if a woman have an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she [shall be] unclean."
 - This poor woman has been unclean for 12 years.
 - That meant being out of her husbands home,
 - outside of social interaction, her friends could not have her over,
 - and she was not allowed in the synagogue and without a place of worship.

Tradition teaches that her name was Veronica and that she was a wealthy woman and that she was from Caesarea Philippi and that she became a Christian and in her home had a bronze statue made of this indecent.

Mar 5:27 after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind {Him} and touched His cloak.

Mar 5:28 For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well."

- When she heard about Jesus, tells us that she probably was not from the area because everyone heard of Jesus in Capernaum.
- She came up in the crowd ...She is risking a lot. She shouldn't be here. She shouldn't be touching anyone.
- Matt 9:20 says "if I could touch the hem of His garment" KJV= hem Luke and the NASB = fringe
 - Every Jewish man wore a cloak or an outer garment that was called a Tallit
 - This Tallit is used today as a pray shawl. The Jews would wear this at home or in the public. During times of persecution they wore smaller versions underneath their shirts. This was a rectangular cloth with four corners, called wings. The Hebrew word for Boarder is the same used for Wings.
 - The corners had a very specific design. Each of the four corners had eight strands of yarn and a blue one running thru it. There were a number of knots tied and then the loose threads. This tassel is called a tzitzit. These tzitzit are there to remind Jews that they are God's chosen people and that His commands were given to them and they are to obey them,
 - Numbers 15:38-40, "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribbon of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring: That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God."
 - This is very interesting to the Jewish mind that considers Malachi 4:2 that the Messiah would come "with healing in His wings (boarders)"
 - Or Psalm 91:1-4 where under this prayer shawl is the secret place of the Most High and under His wings.
- Another interesting point is that there may have been a touch of superstition to the healing properties of the garment

Mar 5:29 Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

- The flow was dried up and she felt as she hasn't felt in 12 years.
- A miracle has taken place.

Mar 5:30 Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power {proceeding} from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?"

Mar 5:31 And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' "

- The Disciples Hear him say "Who touched me?" and are wondering Who didn't? But they didn't see the work that was done in faith.

Mar 5:32 And He looked around to see the woman who had done this.

Mar 5:33 But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, **came** and **fell down before Him** and **told Him the whole truth.**

- Again, we see a process
 - She came to Him
 - She came humbly
 - She told Him the whole truth
- Here is the incredible difference. Many were pressing, thronging Him. But only one touched Him.

Mar 5:34 And He said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well**; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

- He calls her Daughter. This is the only time Jesus used this word. Daughter. Family
- Jesus wants to dispel any notion that His garment had healing powers that it was her faith that Jesus is the One who Heals.

Mar 5:35 **3) An Official Who's Religion Doesn't Bring Life** vs 35-43

(really begins in verse 21-24)

While He was still speaking, they *came from the {house of} the synagogue official, saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?"

- While all this is happening with the woman faith is building in this official yet he wants Jesus to hurry.
- Then comes the ultimate faith stealers. People from his house come to give the news that his daughter is dead.

Mar 5:36 But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, *said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid {any} {longer,} only believe."

- The Hebrew tense of the words here is stronger than you think.
- Jesus upon hearing this he turns immediately and says, "Stop Being Afraid. Keep Believing!"
- What a struggle Jesus puts this official in. How successful was he? At times he would see Jesus walking confidently to his house and faith would rise. Then a few steps later he would recall the word of his people "She is dead" and fear gripped him. I'm confident his walk had a number of ups and downs. Yet his ups came as he locked his eyes on Jesus and walked with him.

Mar 5:37 And He allowed no one to accompany Him, except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

- Why these three? No real understanding. Why not all? I do not know.

Mar 5:38 They *came to the house of the synagogue official; and He *saw a commotion, and {people} loudly weeping and wailing.

- The Talmud made allowances for mourners. There were specific instructions for flutiest and criers.
- Surely the synagogue official would have these people gather easily plus many more concerned parishioners.
- The official's religion had this covered as well. What to do

Mar 5:39 And entering in, He *said to them, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."

Mar 5:40 They {began} laughing at Him. But putting them all out, He *took along the child's father and mother and His own companions, and *entered {the room} where the child was.

- *Jesus states she is asleep*
- *These criers turn from crying to laughing. Jesus has the ability to bring out of a person the true emotion of a person. Again speaking of the official's religion it isn't very sincere. It is a face that appears to do the right thing.*

Mar 5:41 Taking the child by the hand, He *said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

- *Interesting that this is a Aramaic language. Peter hearing this reported this to Mark for him to write in his gospel.*
- *This term Talitha means little girl. Sweetie. Picture this the God who but speaks and the worlds and Universe exists leans over and says softly "Baby, Sweetie, it's time to wake up"*

Mar 5:42 Immediately the girl got up and {began} to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded.

Mar 5:43 And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this, and He said that {something} should be given her to eat.

Why were these 3 people touched by Jesus

- Demoniac For Decapolis to witness
- The Woman For the Official to build his faith
- The Little Girl For Mom and Dad; For Peter James and John

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