

Who is this man?

Mark 5

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

S.C. Brown, Pastor

May 28, 2017

Last week we ended with a question from the disciples. The question was, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Now, today in chapter 5 we get our answer more clearly...and from an unlikely source.

I am putting these stories together because Mark wants us to read them together. The storm (last week), a demon possessed man, a woman with a bleeding disorder and a synagogue leader named Jairus’ daughter.

These stories, you know well. If you have grown up in church, you surely have heard them many times. In God’s word today, we want to avoid the desire to find something NEW- something we haven’t seen before. Instead, we want to find the clear truth of the passage.

— — — — — -MONOLOGUE— — — — —

Let say you’re living in Rome in the first century. A friend came and delivered to your church this book titled ‘Mark’ on some papers. Your church gathered in someone’s house and started reading it.

It's Peter's eyewitness account written down by his friend Mark. It tells you about many of the things that Jesus did.

The second day, you get to a section about Jesus calming a storm, Jesus healing a man full of demons, Jesus healing a woman with a bleeding problem and Jesus bringing a girl back to life.

Why is this included? What does your house church in Rome need to see about Jesus in these stories?

You notice as you are listening, that the storm was wild and so was the man who lived in the tombs. Jesus calmed them both. The sea became calm and the demon possessed man was sitting calmly with Jesus. A potential disaster and a demon filled man. A wild storm and a wild man. Both of them were tamed by the power of Jesus.

You also noticed as you listened that, though the disciples didn't know fully who Jesus was, the demon knew exactly who Jesus was. The disciples said, *"Who then is this?"* The demon answered their question- *"Jesus, Son of the Most High God."* You think to yourself, *'Even haters of God can know the truth ABOUT Jesus. Trusting him is something else though.'*

One of your Greek church members...interrupts the reading with excitement....and burst out saying,

“Hey, wasn’t that area where the demon possessed man was called the Decapolis? That was a non-Jewish area. It’s weird that Jesus even went there! From what we have heard about Jews, that would’ve been pretty strange. Greeks, Pigs, tombs....they won’t go near those things....and yet Jesus went there and healed that man.”

One older man in your group says, “Well, let’s make sure we do what the demon possessed man did after he was healed...Go home and tell how much the Lord has done for us.”

As the reading continues into the night hours, the story changes to a man coming up to Jesus and begging him to heal his 12 year old daughter, who was dying. Jesus goes with him, but is interrupted on the way by an older lady with a bleeding problem.

Jesus is so powerful that she simply touches his clothes and she is healed. But, it seems there were lots of people touching him! What was different about her touch?

Jesus said it was her faith.

**A Disastrous storm...no problem for Jesus.
Demon filled man...(maybe the worst case you’ve ever heard of)....made completely whole.
A woman with a blood disease....cured.**

Unfortunately, Jesus gets to the little girl too late. She dies while they are on the way. Jesus' words to the girl's father strikes you to the core.

He says, **"Do not fear, only believe."** You think to yourself, 'This may be the meaning behind all the stories.'

"DO NOT FEAR, ONLY BELIEVE."

- The disciples were afraid of Jesus after he calmed the storm.
- The demons were afraid of Jesus. They fell down and said to him, *"Don't torment me."*
- The townspeople were afraid of Jesus and asked him to leave their area- after they saw the demon possessed man in his right mind.
- The older lady fell down before Jesus with fear and trembling after she realized she was healed.
- And now this guy Jairus is told not to BOTHER Jesus any longer....and Jesus says, *"Do not fear, only believe."*

What you hear next leaves some of you totally shocked. Jesus rises the girl from the dead.

"What? Power to raise the dead too????", says one of the children.

Dominion over natural disasters.

Dominion over the demonic.

Dominion over disease.

and now....

Dominion over death.

“WHO THEN IS THIS?”

“Jesus, Son of the Most High God.”

You leave your house church that night and walk home. The words keep ringing in your ears. ***“Do not fear, only believe.” Do not fear, only believe.”***

You can't wait to get back the next evening to hear some more about the Lord Jesus. Your faith is welling up like a fountain as you ponder these accounts of what he did and said.

It isn't long after you start reading the next night — that there's a knock on the door. You all think it is one of your other members who is running late. To your astonishment, at the door are Roman soldiers. They drag you off...all of the adults...to the underground prison.

It's been three days now. Some of you are sick. You are ALL hungry. The rumor is that tomorrow their going to use you for sport in the Coliseum. You know what that means. Lions!

You all gather together and thank God for his perfect timing. What encouragement you received from the last few days in his word. Those words keep ringing in your ears. ***“Do not fear, only believe.”***

You comfort one another with these words. You don't know what is coming.

But this you DO know....Jesus has the power to deliver you. If you die, he will deliver you from that also.

You remember the words of your friend Paul, who likes to say, “Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

So, you grab a piece of charcoal from the floor and write this down on a scrap piece of paper.

“To: whoever may read this....if anyone finds this letter....I have only two things to say to you.

First, It is not enough to know the truth about who Jesus is. Even the demons know that. You must give your life to HIM and trust HIM.

Secondly, no matter how bad the situation is you may find yourself in, no matter how hopeless it seems, whether a disastrous storm, demonic oppression, disease or death... “Do not fear, only believe in Jesus Christ.”

He is the LORD.

He is the King.

He’s the Son of the Most High God.

‘The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you’,

Your beloved, Persis