

Mark
Chapter 4:35 – 5:43
“Yes He Can”

All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid
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Announcement:

Teaching: We left the text last week in the midst of one of our Lord’s teaching engagements, but now we move back into another season of more hands-on teaching through physical ministry.

These are all well known passages so we’re going to try not to get hung up in the details, but to see the bigger picture, but if you want more information than what I give you here today ... let me know and I’ll get you pointed in the right direction.

Chapter 4, verses 35-41: The Sea of Galilee sits some 700 ft below sea level and because of that ... every pass in the hills that surround it acts like a wind tunnel. That means that the wind there can go from 0 to 60 in an instant. It’s known for its unannounced, violent storms.

And sailing from Capernaum on the west bank of the Sea of Galilee (the eastern bank) is about 6 miles. So this is a large and deep body of water.

But these were fisherman. They’d been out on the sea most of their lives ... so when these guys are afraid ... it’s a storm.

So it almost seems unfair of Jesus to rebuke His disciples.

Q. We can understand why they would be afraid can’t we? – The storm was overwhelming and the boat was filling with water.

Q. Who wouldn’t be afraid? –

Q. So why did He rebuke them then? – Well ... I think it comes back to two questions:

- 1.** What did Jesus know
- 2.** And, what did Jesus say

Q. What did He know? Did He know this storm was coming even when they were standing on the bank and He said to them “Let us go over to the other side”? – Of course He did. But the fact of a coming storm did not stop Jesus from doing what it was

time to do.

Q. And secondly ... what did Jesus say? Did He say in verse 35 “Let us go over to the other side” or did He say, “Let us go under and die”? – More than anything else, that’s why He rebuked His disciples right after He rebuked the storm.

Q. If God said ... and He did, “We’re going over”, then how could they go under? – God’s word must and will come to pass. The disciples needed to learn that and if you haven’t already ... you need to learn it too.

Q. How many of you were here for the May 3rd tornadoes in and around OKC? -- More than 70 tornadoes were spotted in about 9 hours and one of those storms required a new tornado power rating just to be able to describe it; F6. One meteorologist called it “The Greatest Force in Nature”.

Well ... if so, consider that the God we serve controls “The Greatest Force in Nature” ... with a word.

So we need to know that this God is, not just the Lord of the storms, but that He is the Lord of our storms.

Q. Why then would we be afraid of any of this life’s storms?

Chapter 5, verses 1-20: Here we see a legion of demons (and I don’t know that we should, but if you take the name literally it would indicate somewhere around 6,000 of them), and they were possessing a man who was obviously tormented by their presence.

Q. And just how, do you suppose, this fellow could have wound up in such a pathetic state? – He must have been a really horrible person don’t you think? – Well the scriptures would bring that conclusion into question ...

Luke 11:24 "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 25 "And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. 26 "Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

So this passage is not describing a “bad” person at all. In fact it’s describing, what the world would consider to be a “good” person. It’s describing someone who’s purged their life of all the bad stuff they can think of, but they’ve failed to fill that empty space with God. This is human moralism.

And who knows how many times this man from Decapolis had cleaned up his own act. The scriptures would indicate that this man’s case was getting worse and worse. Once he

could be controlled, but not any longer. The point is ... be careful ... this man was probably not what we would classically think of as a “bad” person.

He may well have been a civic leader ... a member of some do-good church. He may have fed the poor and sheltered the homeless, but whatever he did ... he did it in his own strength and, unfortunately, to his own glory and in doing so ... he opened himself up to dangers unimaginable.

Naked and gashed and dirty and bloody. Living in cemetery ... he spent his days and nights running and screaming and tormenting people. He was demon possessed.

But despite just how out of control this man was under the evil influence of all these demons ... notice what they did when they saw Jesus. All 6,001 paid Him homage. They immediately ran to bow at His feet.

And they were not only respectful, (referring to Him as “Son of the Most High God), but they were also immediately obedient to His commands.

Now let’s look for a minute at these Gaderenes, because the fact that God ordained the recording of their name and location is evidence that it’s important.

Their name should sound familiar to you. All the way back in the **13th chapter of Joshua** when the land that God had promised the Hebrew nation was being divided up there were 2 1/2 tribes that chose to walk outside of the Lord’s will and stay on the East Side of the Jordan River rather than crossing over into the Promised Land.

One of those tribes was the tribe of Gad.

Q. Sound familiar? -- The Gaderenes were descendants of this tribe of Gad. Those who had chosen to remain on the outskirts of God’s desire for them, but they were still Jewish.

Now ... notice that as a people they chased Jesus out of their land.

Q. And why? Because of 2000 pigs. These descendents of Gad had become pig farmers.

Q. But what were God’s instructions to the Jews about pigs?

Deut 14:8 "The pig, because it divides the hoof but does not chew the cud, it is unclean for you. You shall not eat any of their flesh nor touch their carcasses.

Swine were forbidden.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that Hebrew involvement with swine was an abomination to God.

Q. So how did these people get to the point that they could live in such sin - be such an abomination to the Lord? -- They got to be so callused and insensitive the same way you and I can. They settled down in an area that was outside of the will of God. We all pass through such areas, but as God's people, as Christians, settling down is not an option.

It's a strong warning of what can happen, because it says here that they "implored Him to leave". And the reason they implored Him to leave was so that they could go on with their sinful lifestyle free from conviction.

Q. But why would Jesus allow these demons to enter into the swine? – Mercy! Great love and mercy.

First, He was being merciful toward the demons themselves who had asked Him not to cast them out and make them un-embodied spirits. And as unimaginable as it is to me ... Jesus mercifully grants them their request.

But His plan was larger than just being merciful toward these evil Spirits. His plan was also to exercise love toward these Gaderenes.

Q. How ... by slaughtering 2,000 of their pigs? Their primary industry and source of income? – Yes!

Q. Because what did God's law say about them owning swine? – He was ministering to them in as loving a way as they would allow.

And the last thing that I want to point out to you here is that in this passage ... three prayers are recorded:

- 1.** The demons pray to be cast into the swine rather than the abyss and the Lord grants their request.
- 2.** The Gaderenes pray to Him that He will depart from them and He says "OK".
- 3.** But then this new believer ... this freshly delivered and now devoted follower prays for the privilege of going with the Lord and that request is denied.

Q. But why? Why would the Lord grant the prayers of the evil and misled, but deny the prayer of this newly minted Christian? – Because ...

Luke 12:48 ... From everyone who has been given much, much will be required ...

Jesus needed a strong witness in the region of Gadera and this was His man.

Verses 21-43: Secular history records that this fellow, Jairus was the administrator of the Capernaum synagogue where Jesus often worshipped ... the same synagogue where Jesus had been set up and plotted against. The same synagogue that He was being pushed out of.

But this man comes to Jesus reporting that his 12 year old daughter is about to die of some illness. And **Luke** tells us that she was his only daughter. So Jairus is seeking a healing from the Lord.

And Jesus willingly begins to follow Him, but as often happened to the Lord, the crowds pressed in around Him. Kinda like being in a traffic jam.

Q. And don't you wonder what Jairus was thinking? -- His only daughter is lying at home dying. He had finally reached the Lord and the Lord had honored his request and they were on their way and then - oh no! All these people -- and their pace slows significantly.

Those of us who have children can sympathize with him. If anything could cause more pain than the loss of a child - I don't know what it would be. Oh how frustrated Jairus must have been with this snail's pace, but at least they're still moving.

And then --- the Lord stops and turns around to see who had touched Him.

Let me read this to you from **Luke** ...

8:45 And Jesus said, "Who is the one who touched Me?" And while they were all denying it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing in on You." 46 But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that power had gone out of Me." 47 When the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. 48 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

The crowd is all around Him ... clamoring for His attention, but despite the chaos the Lord perceived that someone had received a healing from His power.

And as Jesus looks around and sees this woman ... she's a grown woman, but the Lord addresses her as "My little daughter", which might sound strange until you remember that it's the same word that Jairus had just spoken to Jesus when he cried "My little daughter is at the point of death" and it's the same word that was about to be spoken back to Jairus when those who'd been attending to his daughter came and said to him "Your little daughter has died".

Q. Jarius must have been frustrated, but I wonder ... at this point ... did he get mad? Was he thinking ... "Who touched You? ... Who cares? My baby girl is dying!"

Let's go!" And how that must have stuck in his ears as Jesus addressed this grown woman ... defiled in the eyes of all society and sin-cursed in the eyes of the religious leaders (probably including Jairus) ... and Jesus says to her "My little daughter."

If I know anything about the passion of a father ... Jairus is thinking "She's no precious little daughter ... she's an adulterous woman. Leave her and come save the really precious one."

I'm fascinated by all that must have transpired in his mind as this was unfolding and how these two people must have felt about each other.

And don't miss the fact that this woman was a Jew, so as if it wasn't bad enough to bleed everyday for 12 years, according to Jewish law this woman would have been considered unclean because of here menstruation.

Jairus had enjoyed twelve wonderful years with his little girl. Twelve years of watching her grow and listening to her giggle. But this woman ... twelve years of hell on earth ... in fact ... the same twelve years.

She would not have been allowed to have intimacy with her husband or even have contact with him. She would have been considered defiled and any and all who had contact with her (even indirect contact), would also have been considered defiled. And that meant that she would not have been allowed in the synagogue to worship.

Q. And oh ya ... what was Jairus' job again? He would have been the one to turn here away at the synagogue gate. Their relationship, I'm sure, would have seemed irreparable.

But now ... now they have the bond of Christ.

Q. Do you suppose that this woman had bled for 12 years for just this occasion?

The word "coincidence" is a word that should be illegal for a Christian.

I believe that this woman's 12 year illness was to lift Jairus' faith at just this moment. I would love to know what great things Jairus went on to do. I'd also love to see a video of this woman coming to the synagogue the next time ... in fact, every time from this point on. There was surely a joyous reunion between the two of them each time they met.

So the Lord goes on to Jairus' house and the crowd follows. When He arrives He leaves the multitude outside and takes with Him His faithful three (Peter, James and John), as well as the girl's parents.

We see the hired mourners earning their money by making a loud commotion of weeping. We know that they were hired for two reasons:

1. It was the custom of the day

2. And their loud mourning was one sentence away from laughter when Jesus said “**she has not died, but is asleep**“.

And we see that this girl’s spirit had left her body at death, but returned at the Lord’s command.

What a difference a moment can make!

Some of us here this morning are, no doubt like what Jairus was for 12 years ... riding high, happy and healthy. Some others might be more like this woman ... broken and low and feeling cast off.

But what a difference a moment can make. For Jarius it was that moment that he realized ... my little daughter’s not gonna make it short of a miracle. And for the woman ... it was the moment she realized that she’d been completely healed.

We don’t know what tomorrow holds. We don’t even know what will happen the remainder of this day. Some of us may go from 0 to 60 ... others from 60 to 0.

No matter where you’re at ... high or low ... this story illustrates for us the need that we all have for an ongoing and available touch from our Lord, but also the need that we all have for one another. It’s God’s plan.

Conclusion: We serve a very powerful God.

Power over the storms of this life.
Power over every evil force.
Power over broken relationships
Power over sickness and even death.

But don’t go away with only half of the picture ... yes, He is immeasurably powerful, but He exercises that immeasurable power with an equally immeasurable passion.

Did you notice that as the Sea of Galilee storm kicked up and the winds began to howl ... that didn’t wake Jesus up. And as the thunder and lightning began to clap and roll ... that didn’t wake Him up. Even the waves splashing in didn’t wake Him ... but the fearful voices of His children ... these woke Him. Prayer! He hears!

And notice that even in the midst of a such a miserable storm ... He crossed from west to east to minister to one tormented man and whole society of hardened sinners; the Gaderenes.

Then He travelled back across to minister to the sick, the dead and the hurting. Not to

mention those with broken relationships within His family.

Immeasurably powerful and immeasurably passionate.

And in the midst of it all ... He ministered to His fearful and faithless disciples.

Hey ... we're gonna pass over!