

Mark 4:35 - 5:20

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 5

¹ They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him.

⁷ And 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." ⁸ For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹ And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, "Send us to the pigs; let us enter them." ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea. 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. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. 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.

Great Fear, Great Power, Greater Fear

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Keith Gove- January 6, 2019

Mark moves on from his section of Jesus' parables about the Kingdom of God to stories of Jesus' power. Mark uses these stories to illustrate the emotional impact of Jesus' power so that we might know him, and in knowing him, might have confidence in him.

He has power over nature.

He has power over unclean spirits.

Pre-Life Group Study Questions:

Mark 4:35 - 5:20

What does it mean?

1. Give a summary of Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God in Chapter 4:1-34.
2. In v35, Jesus and the disciples leave the crowds on the shore to cross the lake. Mark includes two interesting comments – first, that they took Jesus *'just as he was,'* and second, that there were other boats with him (listening to him). Why do you think Mark inserts these details?
3. In v38, why is it significant that Jesus is asleep?
4. What does the disciples' question in v38 reveal about their state of mind in the storm and their view of Jesus?
5. What do Jesus' questions in v40 reveal about his desire for the disciples? Isn't it understandable for them to be afraid? What have they seen thus far (in Mark's account), that could have buoyed their faith?
6. Why does Mark include the rhetorical question from the disciples in v41? What does it tell us about them? In what sense do they not know who he is?
7. In the second story, starting in 5:1, why does Mark give so many details about the man with the unclean spirit - where he lived, how he lived, attempts to restrain him, numbers of demons, etc.?
8. Why is it significant that the local farmers raised pigs?
9. Why, upon seeing the miracle that Jesus did for the man, were the townspeople afraid? Why would they beg Jesus to leave? Compare and contrast their response with the disciples' response after Jesus calmed the storm (v40).
10. In contrast to Jesus' healing in Mark 1:40-45, how does Jesus' commission to the now-healed man differ from his command to the leper in Chapter 1? Why do you think this one is different?
11. How would you describe the relationship between these stories of Jesus' power and the parables about the Kingdom in Chapter 4?

How does it apply?

1. In both these stories, the people saw Jesus' power and became afraid. Was there a time in your life when you saw Jesus' work and you were simultaneously afraid? Explain.
2. Mark clearly wants us to see and trust Jesus' power. What do you desire more for yourself right now – to see more of Jesus' power or to place greater trust in the power you have already seen?
3. How can we help each other in our seeking and seeing the power of Christ at work? How can we help each other live more confidently with what we've seen?