

Teen Bible Study Notes: Friday, March 15, 2019
Presented by: Sheldon Monson
The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ – Lecture #30
Book and Chapter – Mark Chapters 5 & 6

MARK 5

A Demon-Possessed Man Healed

V1 Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the county of the Gadarenes.

The country of the Gadarenes – is on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. [The form of the name varies – **Matthew 8:28; Luke 8:26, 37.**]

V2 And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

A man with an unclean spirit – this man was demon-possessed.

V3 Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains,

V4 Because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him.

V5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.

The demons that possessed this man made him supernaturally strong and uncontrollable – to the point he could break the constraining chains others had placed on him!

V6 But when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshipped Him.

V7 And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”

V8 For he said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!”

V9 Then He asked him, “What *is* your name? And he answered, saying, “My name *is* Legion; for we are many.”

V10 And he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.

V11 Now a large herd of swine was feeding near the mountains.

V12 And all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.”

The demons desire to possess human beings or this case swine rather than be cast into no particular place.

Matthew 12:43 “When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.”

Luke 8:31 “And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.”

V13 And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

Two thousand swine – Even today two thousand swine is a large herd.

On the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus encountered 2 men who were possessed of demons (**Matthew 8:28-34**). Both Mark and Luke in their parallel accounts mention only one man (*see also Luke 8:25-39*). Obviously, they focused on the more prominent of the two. Remember the accounts support one another – they do not contradict each other.

When Jesus commanded the unclean spirits to leave, they requested permission to enter a herd of swine feeding nearby. Christ granted that request. The demons entered the hogs, which, in turn rushed down an embankment into the sea, and drowned.

Question: Why did the demon-possessed swine hurl themselves into the sea, and why did they drown, since pigs are perfectly capable of swimming?

Answer: The same demons that had *driven* this man *into the wilderness* (**Luke 8:29**), and caused the man to *cut himself with stones*, drove the swine *down the steep place into the sea* and caused them to *drown*.

Satan and his cohorts seek to “*steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*”

Bible critics have charged Jesus with destroying the property of others. It is alleged by these critics that His conduct was reprehensible. There are several things that may be said in response to these baseless accusations:

1) It is interesting to observe that the demons obviously acknowledged the right of *Jesus, Son of the Most High God* – to use these swine for His own purpose.

Colossians 1:16 “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

Psalms 50:10 “For every beast of the forest *is* Mine, *and* the cattle on a thousand hills.”

Hogs too!

2) No appeal was made to the authorities for “arrest” and incarceration of Christ. Rather the people *marveled* (verse 20). Thus in the interest of a higher good, Christ had every right to allow this incident to occur.

3) Certainly, Christ used the incident to awaken the Gergesenes from their indifference as a result of this.

4) Anyone who thinks the lives of 2000 hogs transcends that of a human life, made in the image of God, has a thought process that is so far from the way God thinks – that no argument presented is likely to change their corrupt minds.

Anyone hearing this story should rejoice for the men for whom Christ performed this mighty miracle! How does anyone put a value on this?

As Christians we should take comfort in the knowledge that the forces of the enemy (Satan and the demons) are under the complete control of God, and can only act as He allows.

Question: What happened to the demons that entered the swine? Did they die too?

Answer: The pigs died. The demons did not. Demons are spirit beings and are not subject to the laws of death as we are. If someone dies, or in this case a pig dies, that they are possessing – they simply move on to their next victim, they do NOT die with that being (**Lue 20:36**).

V14 Now those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened.

V15 Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid.

V16 And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine.

V17 Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.

Jesus could have stayed and healed and taught in that region, but He was turned away by its fearful citizens. Yet He left a solid witness behind – as the scriptures show that the people *marveled* when they heard what *Jesus had done!*

V18 And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him.

V19 However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”

V20 And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

Jesus did not allow the man to accompany Him further, but rather gave him a job to do. He sent the man to proclaim in **Decapolis (verse 20)** [*which literally means “ten cities”*] **all that Jesus had done for him.** The result – **all marveled!**

A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed

V21 Now when Jesus had crossed over again by boat to the other side, a great multitude gathered to him; and He was by the sea.

V22 And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Him, he fell at His feet.

V23 And begged Him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.”

Aware of Jesus’ miraculous powers, Jairus approached Jesus with perhaps the greatest need he had ever faced. He knew Jesus could heal his daughter and his faith was unshakable!

V24 So *Jesus* went with him, and a great multitude followed Him and thronged Him.

V25 Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,

V26 And had suffered many things from the physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

Intertwined with the incident of Jairus’s daughter is the story of the woman with a persistent blood flow – perhaps a severe menstrual disorder.

The doctors were unable to help her. In fact, the condition ***grew worse!***

V27 When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment;

She must have feared having her embarrassing condition revealed to the crowd.

V28 For she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well.”

Her faith motivated her to **ACT!**

V29 Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction.

V30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, “Who touched My clothes?”

The word ***immediately*** is used twice in this context. Both the woman and Jesus simultaneously knew what had happened.

V31 But His disciples said to Him, “You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”

V32 And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

V33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

V34 And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”

The woman stepped forward and **told Him the whole truth**. Jesus used a tender word – **daughter** – to address this woman, and He noted that her **faith** made the difference, for it was correctly placed in Him.

V35 While He was still speaking, *some* came from the ruler of the synagogue’s *house* who said, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?”

V36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not be afraid; only believe.”

The implication of the girl’s reported death is that her condition is now irreversible and without remedy. Jesus immediately corrects this thought by insisting that Jairus stop being **afraid** and continue to **believe**.

V37 And He permitted no one to follow Him except for Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

Jesus **permitted** only **Peter, James, and John** to join Him. These were the same three He permitted to see the Transfiguration (**Mark 9:2**), and to accompany Him for prayer in Gethsemane (**Mark 14:32-33**).

V38 Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a tumult and those who wept and wailed loudly.

V39 When He came in, he said to them, “Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”

V40 And they laughed Him to scorn. But when He had put them all out, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying.

V41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, “Talitha, cumi,” which is translated, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”

Talitha, cumi – is Aramaic.

V42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years *of age*. And they were overcome with great amazement.

That *the girl arose* – indicates that her life had been restored, just as in the case of the dead son of the widow of Nain (**Luke 7:15**), and of Lazarus who had been dead for four days (**John 11:44**). All three would die again.

V43 But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it, and said that *something* should be given her to eat.

The command to keep the miracle a secret was a temporary measure, for certainly the girl's reappearance could not be hidden very long. Such orders, would, however, allow Jesus to exit quietly. Also – every time we see great miracles occurring we see that persecution follows!

MARK 6

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

V1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him.

Jesus now went to minister to those of *His own country*, the area where He grew up, around Nazareth.

V2 And when the Sabbath had come, he began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, “Where *did* this *Man* get these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands!

The people readily acknowledged both Jesus' *wisdom* and His *mighty works*.

V3 “Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” And they were offended at Him.

The fact that Joseph is not mentioned here may indicate that he had died.

Jesus came from a large family. **Verse 3** – list the names of his four brothers, and also states that he had sister's “plural.” So Jesus had at least 3 sisters – as **Matthew 13:56** states: “And His sisters, are they not all with us?” The word *all* implies at least three, otherwise they would have said “both.”

Therefore, Christ's family consisted of four brothers and least three sisters, who with Mary and Joseph and Christ made a total of at least ten, a good-sized family – not unusual in those days!

Question: Where was Jesus between ages 12 and 30?

Answer: Following the account of Jesus teaching in the Temple at age 12, scripture states: “And He came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, ‘He shall be called a Nazarene [*that is one who came from Nazareth*]” (**Matthew 2:23**). So Jesus evidently spent most of those years in Nazareth. If He had not, He would not have been known as a Nazarene.

Now read the important account of Jesus preaching in the synagogue, after He was 30 years old: “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up...” (**Luke 4:16**).

And what did they think of Him? (**Read verses 2 and 3 above – V2** “...And many hearing *Him* were astonished, saying, ‘Where *did* this *Man* get these things? And what wisdom *is* this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! **V3** Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?’”

This was Jesus’ own country (**Luke 4:24**).

Luke 4:24 “Then He said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own country.’”

The people knew Jesus! They knew His whole family. How obvious that Jesus spent most of those 18 years between the ages of 12 and 30 in Nazareth. This is where He was trained and where He studied.

Whether or not He traveled to any foreign nation is not revealed. Speculations about Jesus traveling the world or studying with the Essenes are unsubstantiated by any biblical evidence.

Personal Correspondence Letter – 975 – Worldwide Church of God

V4 But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.”

A prophet is not without honor except in his own country – perhaps they were envious of Jesus’ popularity and huge following. Their envy even took the form of violence against Christ (**Luke 4:29**).

V5 Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid hands on a few sick people and healed *them*.

V6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Sending Out the Twelve

V7 And He called the twelve *to Him*, and began to send them out two *by two*, and gave them power over unclean spirits.

He gave them power – so they could cast out demons, and heal the sick. God’s true servants have His backing and authority! Others do not.

V8 He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bag, no bread, no copper in *their* money belts –

V9 But to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.

V10 Also He said to them, “In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place.

These rules made for easier travel and encouraged the disciples to trust God for their food and shelter, which faithful hearers who heeded their teaching would provide.

V11 And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!”

V12 So they went out and preached that *people* should repent.

V13 And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed *them*.

John the Baptist Beheaded

V14 Now King Herod heard *of Him*, for His name had become well known. And he said, “John the Baptist is risen from the dead, and therefore these powers are at work in him.”

This ***King Herod*** was Herod Antipas, one of the sons of Herod the Great – the king who tried to kill the baby Jesus (**Matthew 2:1-18**).

V15 Others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is the Prophet, or like one of the prophets.”

V16 But when Herod heard, he said, “This is John, whom I beheaded; he has been raised from the dead!”

V17 For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her.

Herodias – was a granddaughter of Herod the Great and the sister of Herod Agrippa. She was married to Philip – a half-brother of Herod Antipas. Her first husband, was never a ruler. She divorced this Philip in order to marry Herod Antipas. Herod likewise divorced his first wife, the daughter of the king of Arabia (**II Corinthians 11:32**).

V18 For John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”

John the Baptist's message to Herod was that his divorce was not lawful as grounds for remarriage.

- V19 Therefore Herodias held it against him and wanted to kill him, but she could not;
 V20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he *was* a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly.
 V21 Then an opportune day came when Herod on his birthday gave a feast for his nobles, the high officers, and the chief *men* of Galilee.
 V22 And when Herodias' daughter herself came in and danced, and pleased Herod and those who sat with him, the king said to the girl, "Ask me whatever you want, and I will give *it* to you."

Herodias' daughter – was named Salome. Salome was still unmarried at this point and danced before the king. Because she pleased him, Herod ***swore*** by a solemn ***oath to give her up to half of his kingdom***. Salome seized the opportunity for her mother, Herodias, who hated John the Baptist.

- V23 He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom."
 V24 So she went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist!"
 V25 Immediately she came in with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."
 V26 And the king was exceedingly sorry; *yet*, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he did not want to refuse her.
 V27 And immediately the king sent an executioner and commanded his head to be brought. And he went and beheaded him in prison.
 V28 Brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother.
 V29 And when his disciples hear *of it*, they came and took away his corpse and laid it in a tomb.

Feeding the Five Thousand

- V30 Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught.
 V31 And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.
 V32 So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves.
 V33 But the multitudes saw them departing, and many knew Him and ran there on foot from all the cities. They arrived before them and came together to Him.
 V34 And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.

Whenever we see Christ *moved with compassion* – that compassion, led to ACTION!

V35 And when the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, “This is a deserted place, and already the hour *is* late.

V36 Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.”

V37 But he answered and said to them, “You give them something to eat.” And they said to Him, “Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give them *something* to eat?”

The Latin word *Denarii* – is the plural of denarius – a commonly used silver coin in the days of Christ. It was the sum typically paid to a laborer for a day’s work. Thomas calculated it would take the wages of two hundred days’ labor to provide for that multitude.

V38 But He said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” And when they found out they said, “Five, and two fish.”

V39 Then he commanded them to make them all sit down in groups on the green grass.

John 6:4 – informs us that this event occurred prior to the approaching Passover.

V40 So they sat down in ranks, in hundreds and in fifties.

V41 And when He had taken the five loaves and the two fish, He looked up to heaven, blessed and broke the loaves, and gave *them* to His disciples to set before them; and the two fish He divided among *them* all.

The tense of the verb *gave* – used by **Mark** and **Luke (Luke 9:16)** suggests that the multiplication of the loaves took place in Jesus’ hands as He continued to give the bread and fish to the disciples.

V42 So they all ate and were filled.

V43 And they took up twelve baskets full of fragments and of the fish.

It is possible to conclude that the leftovers gave each disciple enough food for his own use. Jesus not forget to feed His own 12 disciples too.

V44 Now those who had eaten the loaves were about five thousand men.

Jesus Walks on the Sea

V45 Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away.

V46 And when He had sent them away, he departed to the mountain to pray.

V47 Now when evening came, the boat was in the middle of the sea; and He *was* alone on the land.

V48 Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea, and would have passed them by.

The fourth watch – lasted from 3am till 6am. More than one miracle is recorded in this brief account. 1) Jesus ***walked on the water***, 2) Jesus showed complete control over his creation when ***the wind ceased***.

V49 But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost, and cried out;

They thought they saw ***a ghost*** – or an apparition – a sign often interpreted as a foreshadowing of evil or even death.

V50 For they all saw Him and were troubled. And immediately He talked with them and said to them, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

V51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.

V52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

Many Touch Him and Are Made Well

V53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there.

V54 And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him,

V55 Ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was.

V56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the border of his garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

Mark summarizes Jesus’ healing ministry, noting how widespread it was. The hem, or ***border of His garment*** was significant, for it was often woven with tassels that reminded the wearer of God’s commandments (**Mark 5:27; Numbers 15:37-41**).