



Bible Study
2014-2015

Heart of a Servant

The Gospel of Mark

LESSON 5

For many mid-western and southern states, violent spring storms and tornadoes are as common as country music and barbecue sauce. Weather sirens can be heard across most cities and towns, and in every school, children have regular tornado drills to prepare them in case of an emergency. Yet, no matter how well prepared you are and how knowledgeable you might be about storms and safety, there is always an underlying awareness of your lack of control and camouflaged anxiety about the unknown outcome. Everyone realizes the possibility of tragedy.

In our last lesson, such was the case for the disciples as they crossed the Sea of Galilee. Master fisherman and experts of the sea, they encountered a storm with hurricane force winds and waves that crashed so violently against the ship, their lives were in jeopardy. What is easily overlooked is a small statement the Holy Spirit wanted preserved in the Word of God. In Mark 4, at the very end of verse 36, it says “other little boats were also with Him.” If the disciples were projecting death as their outcome, can you imagine what the people in the “little boats” were experiencing? Different groups of people, all going through the same life threatening storm, yet only one group of people had Jesus with them.

Storms of all different types, lengths, and sizes will hit us throughout our lifetimes. Sickness, death of loved ones, relationship issues, loss of a job, problems with children and so on. The fact that Jesus was in the disciples’ boat did not prevent this horrifying storm from hitting them, but it could have affected *how* they went through it.

One of Jesus’ names is Emmanuel, “God with us.” And because of the great love by which He loves us, when our lives are rocked and our soul is being tossed around by winds that fly against us, hear His words “Where is your faith?” (Luke 8:25). External and internal storms make no difference to the Lord. As He is Lord over all visible creation, we will see in this lesson that He is Lord over the invisible realm, and all that has, and will ever, come against us. He is the God of the storm...He is our Prince of Peace...and He has loved you with an everlasting love (Jeremiah 31:3).

***“For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea.
They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths...
He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. Then they are glad because they are quiet;
so He guides them to their desired haven.”
Psalm 107:25-26, 29-30***

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

Read Mark 5:1-5

1. Recall that Jesus got into the boat “as He was” (Mark 4:36), which not only implies His exhaustion, but was confirmed by the fact that He slept through the violent tumult of a hurricane. Now He arrives at His desired destination and is met immediately with another challenge.

Describe, in your own words, the man who met Jesus first, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you envision this lost soul as you read about his life in the first five verses.

2. Though the scriptures do not openly explain Jesus’ motivation for leaving the Jewish multitudes in Galilee to cross over into Gentile territory, we can read about God’s heart from Luke 15:4-7. What causes overwhelming joy in heaven?
 - a. What does Jesus say about Himself in John 10:11 and 14?
 - b. The Shepherd heart of God the Father is seen in Ezekiel 34. What three things does the Lord say HE will do in verses 11 and 12?
 - c. Fill in the blanks of what Ezekiel 34:16a says as well.

I will _____ what was lost and bring back what was
_____ away, bind up the _____ and
_____ what was sick.

- d. Do you see that numbers and popularity meant nothing to the Lord? He not only left the multitude to reach one lost and tormented soul, He continued on in His pursuit despite external storms and internal exhaustion. What value did Jesus put on the naked, filthy, out-of-control, demon possessed man? Write out John 3:16 and meditate on the power of His love anew.
- e. Think about Jesus as your Savior and Good Shepherd. Reread the familiar Psalm 23. Then write out a personal prayer of thanksgiving as you apply this truth to your own life.

*“The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His
And He is mine forever”
~Sir Henry Williams Baker (1868)*

Read Mark 5:6-13

Demonic possession is generally defined as when a demonic spirit enters a human body and takes over control of their actions and behavior. It is completely different from the Holy Spirit which never renders a person out of control. The Bible shows various manifestations of a person who is inhabited by a demon, which sometimes includes: muteness, deafness, blindness, convulsions, superhuman strength, and self-destructive behavior. Just because a person has these conditions though, does not necessarily mean that a demon has taken control over them (see Exodus 4:11).

This possession **cannot** happen to a Christian who is filled with the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 10:21; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 6:14-15; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 1:5). Light and darkness, God and Satan cannot co-exist. Though demons can attack a Christian externally through oppression, they can never inhabit the heart that is sealed and possessed by the Holy Spirit.

3. Notice what happens as soon as the demonically possessed man sees Jesus in Mark 5:6-7. He runs TO Jesus to worship Him. Thayer's Lexicon defines this Greek term of worship as "respect shown to men and beings of superior rank."

a. What did the demons (Legion) call Jesus in verse 7?

b. There was a man with an unclean spirit in the synagogue in Luke 4:33. What did this demon call Jesus in the next verse (34)?

c. Something that is important for you to remember to sharpen your understanding for these times is found in James 2:19. Write out the verse here.

4. **Important Reflective Question:** Many times we call people that are not saved "unbelievers." Yet, here we see that people, as well as demons, can believe and acknowledge Who He is!

a. Look up the following verses and **write out** (in your own words) what makes the **eternal difference** between those who have inherited heaven versus those who have chosen to go to hell. (Key words = Spirit, Love, Word of God) Verses: John 1:12-13, 3:3-7; Roman 8:9, 13; 1 Peter 1:22-23 and 1 John 3:9-11.

- b. What is Jesus' **commandment**, not suggestion, for us today from John 13:34-35? Notice the power of influence we have when we obey Jesus?

Read Mark 5:14-20

5. We are going to look at the power and evidence that Jesus has changed a man from the inside out.

- a. Where did this man live before (verse 3) and where do we see him postured once Jesus has delivered him (verse 15)?

- 1) Do you still go to places where “the dead” like to occupy? For instance: bars, parties, watching and listening to perversion and excessive violence in movie theaters, or surfing internet sites that tempt you to sin? Prayerfully read Colossians 3:1-7 and 1 Peter 4:1-3. How do these verses speak to you?

- b. How was this man clothed when Satan ruled him (Luke 8:27) in comparison to being changed by Jesus (Mark 5:15)?

- 1) Once the Holy Spirit enters a life, He will work holiness in our character and a love for others that doesn't want to stumble anyone. Ask the Lord to reveal to you if your clothing is too form-fitting, too revealing or is inappropriate in some way. We can walk in honest ignorance and not realize what our appearance conveys to others. Take a moment to seek the Lord and be tender to receive what He might show you in the coming days (Romans 14:12-13).

c. Though it doesn't say explicitly the condition of his thoughts, in our chapter, we see mental torment and anguish that caused him to be out-of-control and self-mutilating (verses 4-5). In contrast (verse 15), what two words describe his mental state now?

1) Even as a Christian, the enemy can easily attack our thoughts to try and torment us. Yet, with the Lord we have power against him that we did not have in the past. As we do what the Lord instructs by taking control of our thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5), He tells us where to direct them in Philippians 4:8. Rewrite this verse in your own words. How can you practically apply what the Holy Spirit is telling you to do, when you are hit with fear, doubt, bad thoughts and such?

d. What did the man want to do (verse 18) now that Jesus had changed his life?

1) In all honesty before the Lord, do you have this kind of desire to follow after Him?

2) When Jesus delivers a soul from sin and brings a person out of darkness into His light, the person's life SHOULD show evidence of change, both inwardly and outwardly, progressively over time. There should be a desire to continue to follow Him, rather than a one-time decision, and then continuing in a lifestyle of sin. Is there anyone you know who is still in bondage to their sin, enslaved by their flesh, and living their days among the tombs of the world? Write only their first name(s) here and pray for them now.

***“There are strange, soul depths, restless and vast, unfathomed as the sea.
An infinite craving, for some finite stilling. And, lo, His perfect love is perfectly filling.
Lord Jesus Christ, my Lord and my God, Thou, Thou art enough for me.”
~ Frances R. Havergal on a beach in Maryland***

- b. Sometimes, we can view people, even family, parents or children, as obstacles preventing what **we** feel is most urgent for Jesus' intervention. What kind of response does this provoke from you when you feel as though your plans are being blocked? Or when your ability to get the Lord's help for someone you love, that is suffering, is prevented?

Read Mark 5:35-43

8. We will come back to our "seeming" obstacle, but let's continue with this situation in Jairus' life. Time has passed as Jesus addressed a different issue and now word comes to Jairus about his daughter.
- a. Jairus is told that his daughter is dead. Write down the question that follows that declaration.
- b. Despite your prayers, is there a circumstance in your life right now that appears to be "dead?" Whether a friendship, a job, a God-given goal, a marriage, or even a person who is lost or dead in their sins?
- c. The story of Jesus' *purposeful* delay in responding to Mary and Martha's request for their dying brother Lazarus is in John 11. He had been dead four days when the Lord appears on the scene. What question did Jesus ask Martha in verse 40?
- d. What is the wonderful "I Am" statement He made about Himself in John 11:25?
9. Whether the disciples' lives were being rocked in a life-threatening trial, whether a parent desperately intercedes for the life of their child, whether a woman stands grieving over someone or something that has been dead for some time, when Jesus is involved, He proclaims He will bring glory out of it. We may see that glory at some point, if we believe!

- a. Turn back to Mark 5 and write down what Jesus says to Jairus in verse 36.
 - b. Fear! Fear of consequences, repercussions and the future can come when “death” is pronounced. How do you see Jesus fulfilling 1 John 4:18 in His words?
10. Jesus’ perspective in Mark 5:39-40 is not one of final death, but lifelessness. In order for Jesus to do the miraculous, He first had to remove those who mocked in their unbelief. (We will delve further into this in our next lesson.)
- a. Thinking about those whose hearts were hard due to their unbelief (reflect on the last lesson with the parable of the sower), do YOU have any areas of your own life, where you are tempted to believe that it is impossible for God to change it? Look up Galatians 6:7 as you prayerfully reflect on this.
 - b. What two things did Jesus do directly to the little girl from verse 41?
 - c. What is the written word called from Philippians 2:16 and 1 John 1:1?
 - d. Jesus is identified as the written Word of God in John 1:14 and 1 John 5:7. He is also the resurrection and the life. Take a moment now to bring any situation the Holy Spirit has illuminated to your heart concerning death or lifelessness, past or present, to Jesus in prayer. Spend some time praying that Jesus would work according to His timetable, for His glory, and that His life and touch would be seen as a testimony for Himself.

***I prayed for faith and thought that some day faith
would come down and strike me like lightning.***

***But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans,
“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” I had up to this time closed
my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study,
and faith has been growing ever since.”***

~ D. L. Moody

Read Mark 5:25-34

11. Now turning our gaze to focus on what this divine delay was in Jairus' life, we see a woman with her own intense desire to get to Jesus.

a. How long had she been bleeding?

b. In Leviticus 17 are laws concerning worship and sacrifices. Though this woman's issue is menstrual, there is something significant the Lord says about blood in general. Fill in the blanks from verse 14.

For it is the _____ of all flesh. Its _____ sustains its life.

c. Doctors only made her worse and she had spent all of her money trying to get help. You can see why she would lose everything to be healed, when you read what the law required of her from Leviticus 15:19-27. Use another Bible translation if it helps, but carefully read these verses and summarize what her life was like for **12 years**.

12. Well-known singer and speaker, Sheila Walsh, once said "Guilt tells us that we have done something wrong. Shame tells us that we ARE something wrong. Hiding is the biggest desire for those who are filled with shame."

a. Reading what God's words were for her physical condition in Leviticus, shame is most likely just one of many things she felt. What else might she be experiencing emotionally, socially, spiritually and physically? (Use an outside resource to look up "anemia" and what happens with hemorrhaging.)

b. Are there any ways that you can identify, or could in the past, with what she is going through? Briefly explain. (Know that this does not need to be shared if too personal for group discussion.)

c. Reread Mark 5:28-29. Her healing was not found in Jesus' clothes. It will not be found in a vial you order from a company selling water from Israel, nor a prayer cloth, nor any other token man may try and sell you. What brought her healing according to Jesus' words in verse 34?

13. Jesus was being pressed on every side by a multitude of needy people with various kinds of issues. We do not know how many people were healed or delivered or spoken to in our text, nor can we read anything into it. What we DO see is that Jesus wanted to bring other people's attention to one particular woman and it was NOT to shame her.

a. What one promise does God make to us (note what He says repeatedly) from Joel 2:26-27?

b. Look up both Isaiah 50:7 and Isaiah 54:4. Choose which one speaks to you most and write it here. Then write down the reason you chose this particular verse.

c. The Lord can take any affliction from our past, even though it brought alienation, shame, weakness, suffering or poverty, and use it for His glory. This woman had a powerful testimony, and Jesus not only wanted others to hear of it, but He preserved her story in writing for us today. She initially responded in fear, but how did Jesus want her to "go" on and live her days? In what?

- d. The affliction you may have today (or have had in the past), is one that Jesus can and wants to heal. He sees that some of them have had the power to sap us of our life (refer to 11b) just as it did to this poor woman. The dictionary defines “affliction” as “the cause of persistent pain or distress or great suffering.” What does it say of Jesus from Isaiah 53:4, 7, and Isaiah 63:9?

14. From the beginning of this lesson to the end, we saw death was a real enemy and threat to many people. Yet, we have also seen that if we have a relationship with Jesus, we can say like Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:55, “Oh death, where is your sting? Oh grave, where is your victory?” End your lesson by writing out a prayer to Jesus for what He has done for you. By His death, we have eternal life. By His stripes, we have been healed. There is much to praise Him for!

**“Doth not all nature around me praise God?
If I were silent, I should be an exception to the universe.
Doth not the thunder praise Him as it rolls like drums
in the march of the God of armies? Do not the mountains praise Him
when the woods upon their summits wave in adoration?
Doth not the lightning write His name in letters of fire?
Hath not the whole earth a voice? And shall I, can I, silent be?”**

~ Spurgeon