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Grace Evangelical Church
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"Living In Jesus' Power"
Mark 5

Power has many facets to it, doesn't it?

In the recent devastation in Haiti, we saw what a powerful earthquake can do to bring death and destruction. At the same time, we see the power of people in responding with aid in money and goods to help those in desperate need after such a tragedy. Then the recent blizzard on the East Coast reminded us of the power of the snow in shutting down activity even in our nation's capitol.

At the same time, we see power exercised in our government, some for good and some not so good.

We see power exercised in relationships, as on this Valentine's Day, we honor those who have committed themselves to each other as husbands and wives.

We see power exercised even by a baby who comes into a home and changes around schedules by just being there.

Of course, the greatest power, is the biblical eternal God's power, who is all-powerful, called the Almighty God (Revelation 19:6).

That the biblical God is the Almighty God is display clearing through Jesus, the God-man, His Son, as He ministered on planet earth walking the dusty roads of Palestine.

Our text today in Mark 5 displays so clearly that Jesus is the Almighty God as He encounters three different situations.

They all begin with "D." Demons. Disease. & Death. In fact, I will another, "D", - Direction.

That sounds like an exciting message doesn't it. What are you speaking on today? Demons, Disease, & Death. I guess I'll come back next week for something more positive. Something that lifts my spirit.

Well, don't make too hasty of a decision. Let's see how the all powerful Jesus deals with demons, disease, and death.

I. Jesus deals with demons (Mark 5:1-20).

It's well to note that Jesus' encounter with the devil and the demonic world was not something new for Jesus in His earthly ministry.

1. Jesus' previous encounter with the devil's world.

- ∞ Jesus was tempted by Satan at the beginning of His ministry (Mark 1:12-13). He was victorious over Satan.
- ∞ In the synagogue in Capernaum, Jesus cast out a demon from a man in attendance (Mark 1:21-28). Again Jesus was victorious over the demonic world. Here the demon also recognized who Jesus was – the Holy One of God – deity.
- ∞ Jesus cast out demons from those who came to him (Mark 3:7-12). He was victorious over the demons.
- ∞ Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the prince of demons, Beelzebub (Mark 3:22-30). Of course, Jesus was quick to point out that He wasn't. He, Jesus, binds the strong man in the house. He is the victor over Satan. Those who try to attribute the works of Christ by the Holy Spirit to Satan actually blaspheme the Holy Spirit. I believe that Christ has to be present for that to happen. Thusly, blaspheming against the Holy Spirit can not be committed today.

2. Jesus' present encounter with the devil's world (Mark 5:1-20).

Now in our text again Jesus encounters the devil's world, as He encounters a man indwelt by a demon named Legion who is living in a person. The word, Legion (a unit in the Roman army of 3-6000) suggests that the man was indwelt by a number of demons. It's obvious here that the devil's world including his helper demons is a real

world, part of the invisible world of reality, that can manifest itself at different times and at different ways. At the same time, Satan can influence all aspects of a culture. This passage shows the extreme activity of an evil spirit at work in a person.

(1) The man possessed by a demon (5:1-6).

Matthew 8:28 tells us that there were two men.

When Jesus arrived in the country of the Gerasenes (East side of the sea of Galilee, mostly inhabited by Gentiles), a man with an unclean spirit met Him. This man had been dwelling among the tombs. No one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain. He had broken the chains and shackles that had been put on him, and now no one could subdue him. He was screaming night and day, among the tombs and in the mountains, gashing himself with stones. It becomes obvious here that Satan and his cohorts have come to steal and destroy, as we see that this man had lost his family and home, his job and his decency.

Seeing Jesus, he ran up to him shouting with a loud voice, "What business so we have with each other Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" Most High God is used in Genesis 14:18-22, (Melchizedek was a priest of the God most High) referring to God as El Elyon, emphasizing God's strength and sovereignty.

The demons were actually recognizing who Jesus was as they spoke to HIM. Jesus was God in flesh. They believe Jesus Christ is God, but not for salvation. Interestingly, the many today in different cults and religions deny Jesus deity. But the demons, even Satan believes that Jesus is God. His deity is why Satan seeks to deceive people about who Christ is. If Jesus is only a man, He has no Almighty power.

(2) Jesus' confrontation of the demon possessed man (5:7-13).

Jesus started confronting the demons in the man telling them to come out of him (5:8). It seems here that Jesus had asked the demon to come out of the man and there was protest. Jesus asked the one speaking out of the man, what his name was, perhaps to obtain his identity. He replied that his name was Legion, for we are many. As mentioned could be many.

The demon replied to Jesus to not send them out of the country. The demons implored Jesus to send them into the swine that were present. Jesus gave the permission to the demons to enter the swine and 2000 of the swine present rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned. Obviously, there were that many demons living in that man.

Such action of Jesus has caused a lot of discussion. Someone has entitled this section, "Pigs or People." Morgan has suggested that the Jews were trafficking in a trade forbidden by the Jews. Others suggest that this was Gentile territory. Others suggest that the demons asked to be sent to the pigs for they didn't want to be sent yet to the abyss, their final eternal abode.

Regardless of one's interpretation, Jesus demonstrated His Almighty power over the demonic world not just casting out one demon but 2000 demons living in this man. Christ has come to set people free from Satan's control and indwelling. Jesus always has the last word.

(3) The people's response to Jesus' victory over the demons (5:14-20).

- ∞ **The People** - Obviously, this event caused no small stir in the community. Those who owned the pigs certainly lost money. This was an expensive miracle for them. Jesus had interfered with their profits. He must leave the country (Mark 5:17). The interest here was more in the physical/material world than the spiritual world, that a man had been healed from the control of an evil spirit – he was clothed and sitting down in his right mind.
- ∞ **The man healed** -The man wanted to go with Jesus (Mark 5:18). Jesus told the man to go home and tell them what great things the Lord had done for him and how HE had mercy on him. The man did that. He became a witness for Jesus Christ. Everyone was amazed. In Mark 1:44 Jesus told the one healed to not tell anyone. Jesus always had a purpose in what He did.
- ∞ **Note** here – That Jesus crossed the Sea of Galilee at this time for this one man. Jesus came to minister to individuals as well as to multitudes.

II. Jesus deals with disease (Mark 5:21-34).

1. The request (5:21-24).

When Jesus arrived back on the west side of the Sea of Galilee, a large crowd gathered around Him so that He stayed by the shore.

As Jesus was there, an official of the synagogue (perhaps an administrator) came to Jesus telling him that his daughter was at the point of death. He asked the Lord if he would come, lay his hands on her so that she would be made well. Jesus went with Jairus and a large crowd was following along.

Jairus' action, of course would not have been acceptable to the Jewish leaders for they were angered at Jesus' teaching. He was really putting his reputation on the line. The need of his daughter far surpassed his leadership in the synagogue and his friendships.

2. The interruption (Mark 5:25-34).

On the way to Jairus' house, a woman in the crowd, who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years, got so close to Jesus that she touched His garment. She had been to all kinds of doctors, had spent all her money on treatment, and only had grown worse. Hearing of Jesus, she came up behind the Lord and touched His garment. For she thought, "If I can only touch His garments, I will be well."

Immediately (Mark 5:29) the woman was healed.

What a contrast of individuals here.

Jairus a prominent man in the synagogue coming to Jesus for help. Then a Jewish woman who by her situation would be an "outcast" from her culture. There were all kinds of remedies suggested for her problem, from tonics and medicines to carrying the ashes of an ostrich egg in linen bag in summer and a cotton bag in winter.

How did Jesus respond to this interruption?

Jesus knew that His power had been used. (Certainly His omniscience was at work here). He may have then said, "Who touched my garment?" to reveal to the crowd that a miracle had occurred.

The disciples only understood Jesus words from a human viewpoint, "You see the crowd pressing you, and you say, "Who touched Me?"

As Jesus looked around, He saw the woman who had touched Him. The woman fearing Jesus came to Him fell down before Him and told Jesus what she had done (5:33).

Jesus responded to her with grace and mercy, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction.**" These words sealed the woman's faith to her own life and the power of Christ to bring healing in her life.

The word, daughter, suggests that Jesus recognized her, through her faith in Him, as part of His spiritual family. She was now accepted by the Lord regardless of how she had been treated in her community. She had not only been healed physically, but spiritually as well.

III. Jesus deals with death (Mark 5:35-43).

Taking care of the interruption with the woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years, the news comes from Jairus' house that his daughter of 12 years of age had died. So Jesus should not be troubled. Jesus overhearing their conversation told Jairus, "Do not be afraid (stop fearing, present tense) any longer, only believe – keep on believing."

It's interesting that the woman had been hemorrhaging for 12 years. Jairus' daughter that now dies is 12 years of age. One commentator suggests that the number 12 ties these actions of Jesus directly to the nation Israel, for the number 12 is symbolic of Israel. Jesus loved His people regardless of how they treated HIM, regardless of their rejection of HIM as a nation.

1. At Jairus' house (5:37-40).

When Jesus came to Jairus' house there was a great commotion of people weeping and wailing loudly. Jesus took with Him Peter, James, and John his inner circle.

2. Jesus' words (5:39-40a).

Jesus told those weeping and wailing that it was not necessary for them to weep and wail, Jairus' daughter was not dead but asleep (her death was temporary). They laughed at Jesus.

Interesting how quickly they turned from weeping and wailing for Jairus daughter who had died, but they immediately started laughing at Jesus and what He said. They had no idea of the power of the Almighty Jesus Christ.

3. Jesus' actions (5:40b-43).

Jesus put the others out of the house and took Jairus and his wife along (shows Jesus' respect for her parents and sensitivity to them as her parents) with Peter, James, and John into the room where Jairus' daughter was lying. He took the little girl by the hand (what a picture of the Lord's tenderness, His love for children), and said to her in Aramaic, "Talith kum!" "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"

The little girl got up immediately and began to walk. He told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astounded, along with the disciples – they were amazed in ecstasy.

One would think that Jairus and his wife became believers in the Lord. But what a testimony of Jesus' unlimited power over death. What evidence here of Jesus' love, care and hope.

Jesus was also preparing Peter, James, and John for their commissioning in Mark 6:7ff.

Indeed, Jesus has power over Satan and his evil world, power over disease, and power over death.

Let's make some application for our own lives today.

IV. Jesus has for us today His direction.

1. Jesus' unlimited power over demons, disease, and death demonstrates conclusively that He is God in flesh – He is the God-man.

These three miracles, and there are many others, tell us without a shadow of a doubt that Jesus is who He said He was, the I Am, God in flesh (John 8:58).

Certainly, I recognize that there are those today who deny the miracles of Christ that we have considered today. They are just nice mythical stories, good for the Sunday School children, and perhaps have a teaching for all of us that Jesus had a kind spirit in helping people so we should have the same.

In so doing, they also deny the reality that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh with all power. If Jesus Christ is God in human flesh, and He is, then His performing of miracles is no problem whatsoever.

2. Jesus' unlimited power over demons, disease, and death demonstrates that Jesus really cares about people in need.

The theme verse of Mark we mentioned at the beginning of this study is Mark 10:45:

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Does Jesus care about people deceived by Satan in his day and our day, and even ravished by Satan and demons? Definitely!! Jesus went all the way across the Sea of Galilee encountering a storm to heal a man whose life was being destroyed by demons.

On His way to heal Jairus daughter who was very sick, Jesus was interrupted by a woman who had a desperate need to be healed from her physical problem for 12 years. She pressed through the crowd to touch His garment. When she touched Jesus garment, she was healed. Did Jesus treat her roughly and scold her for doing that. Of course not. He called her "Daughter," and told her that her faith had made her well, to go in peace, and be healed of her affliction. Amazing compassion and grace here. Given to her by her Creator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Then in the house of Jairus' daughter where she had died. Jesus put out all the people, took her mother and dead, showing respect and honor for them, and took their daughter by the hand and brought her back to life. You think that the Lord doesn't care about those who have lost loved ones. He has infinite compassion and hope for those who believe in Him.

3. Jesus' unlimited power over demons, disease, and death are a foreshadowing of what Christ is going to do for humanity in his death, burial, and bodily resurrection.

Jesus did not just come to serve but to give His life a ransom, a payment, for many.

What's that mean? Some one has to come and deal with the evil one the father of death. Someone has to come to pay the penalty for sin which is death. Someone has to come and deal with physical and spiritual death.

Only Jesus could do that by being completely obedient to His heavenly Father on earth, the opposite of Satan who disobeyed God and got kicked out of heaven and now opposes God at every turn either directly or indirectly.

That's why Satan tried to keep Christ from going to the cross.

But what does the Scripture tell us?

- ∞ **Hebrews 2:14 tells us that Jesus took upon Himself flesh and blood that through death He might render powerless him who had power of death, that is the devil.**
- ∞ **Ephesians 1:7 tells us that we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sin according to the riches of His grace.**
- ∞ **I Peter 1:3 tells us that are born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Everything that Christ is going to do for us centers in His death, burial and bodily resurrection – the cross and the open tomb.

Jesus' power over demons, disease, and death, has it's basis in Christ's unlimited power to die in our place to pay the penalty for our breaking God's law, be buried, and rise from the dead, and descend into heaven.

4. Jesus' unlimited power over demons, disease, and death is available to us today.

(1) The here and now.

- ∞ **We need to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior.**

Outside of Christ, we are in the kingdom of spiritual darkness. Accepting Christ as personal Savior, we are transferred out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. "For by grace you are saved, through faith, and not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- ∞ **We need to use the power of God within us to defeat the evil one.**

Paul tells the Ephesians to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10, 13).

We must keep alert to the fact that we are in a spiritual battle daily. Satan has a theology, an economic strategy, an educational philosophy, a philosophy for the family, a philosophy for the church, a strategy for running a government.

Satan does his best to thwart God's way of thinking in all of these areas and he will make his philosophy and strategy look just like God's if that will accomplish his purposes to somehow defeat Jesus Christ and what He wants to do in our lives individually, in our family lives, our church life, in our relationships with others, and in the governmental affairs of our state, nation, and world.

The key to defeating the evil one is to bring every though captive to Jesus Christ in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 10:5).

Christ defeated the evil one by using Scripture. We must do the same by using I Peter 1:16; John 17:17. We must continually pray for discernment and sensitivity in our lives to listen to God in His Word and not the sirens in the world seeking to get our attention.

∞ **We need to rely on the Jesus' unlimited power and strength in the times of our sickness and physical challenges (Romans 5:2-5; II Corinthians 12:7-10).**

Paul learned in his tribulations to keep trusting in the Lord, knowing that God had something in them for him to learn more about the Lord. Even when he asked for his thorn in the flesh to be removed, he discovered that God's way was to give him sufficient grace in his challenge.

When Christ was present, he brought healing to those around him with sickness and disease. In His Almighty power He did that as evidenced in our text.

Today, Christ is not present. Does that mean that God can not heal physically? Certainly God can still heal physically today if it is His will. He does it through medicine and medical involvement as His people pray. But it seems that there have been particular periods in biblical history when God really did show case the miraculous – the times of Moses and Joshua; the times of Elijah and Elisha; the times of Christ and the apostles. Now we are in a time, where we are to trust God in our challenges, to wait on Him to accomplish His purposes in and through us for His glory. God does the miraculous as He sees fit through our prayers. Our faithfulness will be rewarded by His grace. In His time, He will make everything right.

∞ **We need to rely on Christ's unlimited power when we pass from this life into our Lord's presence (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-58).**

Jesus is not present to raise people from the dead. At the same time, Jesus gives the believer in Him the living hope, for when he or she passes from this life that individual goes into the presence of one's Lord. When the Lord returns the individual's personality with the Lord will be brought with the Lord to be joined with one's body raised from the grave. Those alive in Christ at His coming will go to be joined with them and forever be with the Lord.

This is the believer's living hope. Jesus' bodily resurrection guarantees the believer's bodily resurrection and eternal life with Him!!

(2) After Christ's return for His church.

∞ **Satan will eventually be cast into the lake of fire**

Satan cannot become incarnate so he will indwell one individual who will offer his rule, economic, and religious system to the world as the antichrist. His rule will be gladly accepted by the world. As I understand the Scripture, the antichrist will rule in peace for at least 3 ½ years. At the end of that time the antichrist will set himself up in Jerusalem in the temple as god. Eventually Christ will return to earth and put down the rule of the antichrist and all who gather in the battle of Armageddon to fight against Him. Satan will be bound for 1000 years while Christ brings true peace and rule to the earth. After which Satan will be released for a season to deceive the nations. Then Satan will be put down and thrown into the lake of fire with his lieutenant and the evil angels to be punished forever (Revelation 20).

What is pictured in Christ's work on earth in defeating Legion in our text will be fulfilled completely.

∞ **Disease and sickness will be no more (Revelation 21:4)**

There will be no more pain and crying.

Jesus will have healed all diseases as pictured in healing the woman with a physical challenge for 12 years.

∞ **Death will be gone (Revelation 21:4).**

There will be no death, no mourning, or crying or pain.

Physical and spiritual death will be no more.

Now what happened to Jairus' daughter will be experienced eternally by all believers in Jesus Christ – Forever eternal life with Jesus.

Indeed, Jesus unlimited power is life changing for the believer in Jesus Christ. Let's thank Him for that unlimited power and live in it victoriously for Jesus this week.

What were Jesus' words to Jairus and those who came to telling him that his daughter had passed away.

"Stop fearing and keep on believing."