

Out of the Tombs

Mark 5:1 – 43

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~ **O**ur Spiritual Safari docks on the shore of the Gadarene graveyard again in this report. We examined this account from Matthews's perspective in his Gospel; but Mark has a little bit different way of seeing things. Many, probably most people, only truly turn to Christ when they find themselves in the middle of a nervous breakdown or some other catastrophe in their life. Some have been going in that circle for decades. For some people, it's almost too late for them to be of any real service to the Lord. They blame their parents - or other people around them - for whatever problem or psychological hang-up they have. They ignore that voice in their head that tells them to get to know God better as they drink alcohol or do whatever it is they do when they want to forget Him. Ironically, that seems to be the only time God ever shows up in their thinking! It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the True and Living God.

Our safari is really a thought pattern correctional program; one whereby you are taught to live, breath, think, eat, drink, sleep and function in a Scriptural connection. If you think you are being brainwashed by these reports - you're almost right - because God is cleaning you up, my beloved. When you stand in judgment – you'll stand alone! I promise you that. Our expedition gets you on the proper spiritual medicine with a correct spiritual diet to get the gross sin completely out of your life. Now is the accepted time for salvation. I shudder to contemplate the deaths of those who perish in their own sins - but we have to – and we will - right here in this report.

Mark recounts more miracle memoirs than any other Gospel writer. Mark made his records in a way that reveal the unmistakable power of work in the Hand of Omnipotence. The three greatest miracles we have record of, by far - in my estimation - are right here in this chapter. That makes this a remarkable section of Scripture. Of course, every chapter we come to, it seems I call it the most remarkable. Well, we're going up a spiritual

stairway; so, with every step up we take we can see new vistas. Sometimes we have to walk on through the clouds, and it seems like we're not getting any higher – but – then we come in a clearing and we're much, MUCH higher than we were. So, let's keep moving....

1 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.

2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,

3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

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

6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

~ This is the human man created by God – not the demon – who ran to worship Jesus; and this is where we really have no choice but to educate ourselves completely about demon worship. When Jesus came over to Gad, He was tired from teaching, as we saw in our last report. Remember, Jesus had just calmed the sea - which deeply disturbed the disciples. Frankly, it freaked them out. Well, Jesus didn't even get any rest; and here they are pulling up on the beach of Gad at the graveyards - where Jesus is going to shock them into acute spiritual trauma. It's beyond eerie! When we start to puzzle all the pieces of the apostle's trip with Jesus together, we see they weren't comfortable at all with Jesus - and He became more troubling to them with each event that unfolded in their lives.

They're not going to get too comfortable here, either, as they cross over to the east side of Jordan to the land that was given to the tribe of Gad; the

land where this madman comes out from to meet them. Remember, Gad chose the wrong side of Jordan - and they stayed behind when the children of Israel crossed over into the land. Well, it never takes long out of the will of God before disobedience sets in and here, in our studies, Gad is in the pig farming business. In fact, when you start heading away from God you can just keep on going - because you're on your own. They shouldn't have been in the pig business, of course, according to Mosaic law, and they should have been on the other side of Jordan - but here they are - in a graveyard - with a man living amongst a whole bunch of pigs.

It's easy to forget that this is a human being who came out of the tombs. He is in a desperate condition, to be sure - but he is still a man. As Jesus steps out of the boat He sees a man coming to Him and, in spite of man's condition, Jesus has compassion and Jesus sees a real need. The man is a maniac and he is acting maniacally. This man acted unpredictably and violently ALL the time. These people had tried to restrain him, but nothing could control this dastardly case of satanic possession of an unclean spirit. Of course, the tombs are also unclean places; the dead were there and sometimes bodies were totally exposed. This man didn't live amongst a normal society with normal interaction with his fellow man; and he enjoyed his place amongst the dead. We learn in another Gospel there was another man here, but he was no companion or friend. When you're in that condition you're utterly alone, friends.

The Word of God tells us this man possessed a superhuman power. Man couldn't bind this possessed man; but that is not a demonstration that God gave him this power. This is a typical case of a wild man that no other can arrest. This man did great physical harm to himself; rendering him a sad case of pathos and pity and, on a human plane, this is a hopeless case we have been presented. This man is crying out and he is as inarticulate as a three-year-old - just the most awful of a demon possessed, lost condition that could be set before the apostles greets them now at landfall. They're terrified. They're wondering why Jesus brought them here. Welcome to Gad! Well, this man that greets them has the split personality of spiritual schizophrenia and he admits that; he says, "... we are many." Sometimes you are dealing with the man and sometimes you are dealing with the demon. Make some notes, friends. This is no joke....

7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.

9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.

~ My name is Legion, for we are many – well, Legion, is it you or who? Singular or plural are you? This is the classic example of the man who began to speak, and the demon took over and finished his sentence for him. The man is singular, but the demon is plural! That contradiction is the hallmark of every unsaved man that walks perpendicular to the soil on planet earth. We hear the “us” and “we” clause invoked by others with regularity when being attacked as a Christian. There is always a rally to enlist others to attack a Christian who is trying to teach correctly. Whenever we begin to make that distinction, we begin a spiritual battle, too....

10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.

11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding.

12 And all the devils besought him, saying; Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.

13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand); and were choked in the sea.

~ It is tremendous, to me, that the demons would prefer the swine as opposed to the abyss. There is a ridiculous argument that says a loving Jesus wouldn't destroy these animals in this manner. Naturally, that's

nonsense. Jesus wasn't some sort of hippie flower love child that was mesmerized by every single creeping thing that creepeth. Remember, these people shouldn't have been in the pig business - and they were breaking the Mosaic System of Levitical Law by doing that in the first place. The walrus and the carpenter weren't complaining because they were eating so many oysters; they complained because of all the sand, you may recall from secular literature! They wept for the wrong thing as most people do - because they have the wrong thinking about nearly everything that comes to their mind - because they have not the Mind of Christ.

There are several facts about demons that are completely misunderstood and always mis-stated. ALL Scripture bears a definite witness to the reality of demons. If you accept the Bible as the Word of God you, by de facto, accept the reality of the realm of Satan as having dominion over this earth. Of course, they go together. Today, demonism is super subtle, and it comes in the form of Mormonism, Latter Day Saints, Seventh Day Adventists, Catholics, and any number of other myriad cults passing as "religion" today. I could give many illustrations - but won't.

Satanic activity was heightened during Jesus incarnation on earth, but it is not confined to that time, by any means. Demons seek to indwell mankind. They seem to only be able to manifest their evil nature through human beings; and it's clear that they are extremely restless entities. Luke says, "... when an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he walks through dry paces seeking rest, and, finding none, he says I will return unto the house from whence I came out." That is characteristic of ALL evil men. They have a restlessness to seek an expression of their evil nature! The Holy Spirit never seeks to take possession of men as He only indwells believers that have opened the door to Him! Jesus never storms the house and barricades Himself inside - that's what Satan does! Until Christ is indwelling a man then demons can - and do - possess the unsaved. For a believer, greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. He that is in the world is Satan!

So, the demons would rather go into a herd of swine where they might live than into the darkness of the abyss. I highly suggest you dear readers prayerfully contemplate the information I am giving you in this report. There is only one devil and that is Satan; all the rest are unclean spirits and

they are called that because of their nature. Scripture does not reveal their origin to us. Anything that anyone says here would be highly speculative. Apparently, there are a whole lot of them, and they are under the direction of Satan. At the fall of Satan from Heaven, these are the angels that followed him at that time. The entire plan and purpose of Satan is the final undoing of man and mankind! They are working to accomplish that program of Satan in this world right now as I type this report and as you read and breath.

There are so many examples of present-day demon possession that it wouldn't be prudent to try to identify them. I could offer several reports worth of evidence just from activity that takes place within a ten-mile radius from the Spiritual Safari International World Headquarters. Most of the college professors and faculty – and students – are in it up to their eyebrows. They tell me they find reality in it – I think they do, too, by the way – and a very real reality! One you can feel. Satan is prepared to make himself real to those who will worship him; but, he still hates you - and, even so, the devil's most tangent and terrifying examples of spiritual terrorism are found right here in the Bible; so that's where the satanic worship crowd has ended up today!

The Lord Jesus Christ has power over all demons. That is the lesson we should have learned from the Bible by now. There's no reason to be afraid of some cult or voodoo witchcraft necromancer. Christ has dominion and rule and POWER over all of them! It's ridiculous to have some spooky superstitious paranoia of them. If you feel like they are a real problem, then ask the Lord Jesus Christ to deliver you from their stronghold – because they are real – they just don't have rule in your life when Christ indwells you. Demons have ALREADY been cast out in His Name and it's only a lack of faith that chains you to walking in fear of them. If you have gotten to the place where you think they control you, direct you or possess you in any way you need some real help, friends! Well, we remember the Gadarenes asked Jesus to leave the coast after all of this. They have had enough. They would rather have their pigs than to have Christ! Why don't you search your heart asking yourself which you would rather have? ~

~ Rabbi, be gone!

*Thy powers bring loss to us and ours
~ Our ways are not as Thine
Thou lovest men but we love swine
~ Get Thee hence Omnipotence
And take this fool of Thine and his soul
~ What care we for his soul?
What good is it to us that Thou hast made him whole?
~ They wept when they lost their swine
Christ went sad from Gad
~ For He had wrought for them a sign
Of love and hope and tenderness divine
~ They just wanted swine
Christ, at the door, gently knocks
~ but if gold or pigs does the entrance block
He forces no man He will depart and leave you
~ To that treasure of you heart that deceives you
No cumbered chambers will the Master share
~ But one swept bare as cleansing fires
Then replenished fresh and fair
~ With meekness and humility and only in prayer
Is where He will visit and yet even there
~ He stands and waits and will not make an entrance
Until the Door is opened from within....*

14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done.

15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid.

16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine.

17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.

18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him.

19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

21 And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

23 And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

~ Well, as we look back at this chapter, we see a woman who spent all she had on medical bills. I guess becoming sick has always been a financially catastrophic event. She just wanted to touch Him. I know we have a lot of little Jesus people running around claiming Him in His Name and grabbing at Him – but not like this woman touched Him! It’s just not the same thing. They reach out for physical and material personal gain; she reached out for healing, because she was sincere.

This woman had been in this awful condition for twelve years and the little girl that needed healing was twelve years old. Twelve years of suffering would end, and twelve years of light enters into the darkness of death. I think this father waiting for Jesus was anxious and wondering why He couldn’t hurry up a little more. Her father is worrying about his little girl dying. The purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ is to make this man believe - because as Jesus is wasting time with this other woman - the servant comes and tells the man its too late – his daughter is dead now.

Well, we went with Jesus into that home and those who didn’t believe were put out! Jesus didn’t go in until they were out! Jesus took her hand and spoke to her in an expression that a little Aramaic girl would have understood in her native tongue. It means, “... little lamb, wake up!” When children are faking asleep, they sometimes smile as they continue the ruse. I think this little girl did just that; but this death was no ruse. Jesus always raises the dead by speaking to them. That should make us smile. Is Christ speaking to you in a statement of His power and ability? Does that make you smile? Are you hungry for the Word of God? Well, the dead are waking up - and when the dead wake up - they will need to be fed ~

