

Jesus Can – Oct. 18, 2023

Sometimes, we are helpless to change our circumstances. **Jesus Can.**

Mark 9:14-29. A boy with an “evil spirit” that has robbed him of speech. Has convulsions, foams at the mouth, then becomes rigid. (Seizures).

- His condition ongoing on a while. Several years. “childhood” – boy
 - Doesn’t matter if our struggle is days, weeks, yrs – **Jesus Can!**
- Disciples tried to help – but couldn’t.
 - Sometimes we rely on others to fix us... but – **Jesus Can!**
- This spirit was robbing the boy of speech.
 - **vs 22** - *“The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him.”*
 - Enemy may rob us of more than that: Joy, peace, relationships, ...
 - Jesus called the Enemy a thief... robbing us, destroying us.
 - **John 10:10** - Berean Standard Bible – “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.”
 - Jesus gives us complete, full life. Yes – **Jesus Can!**
 - Jesus does not want us living a **partial life**... limited. Tethered.
- Father said to Jesus, *“if you can do anything, please ”* ... have mercy. Help.
 - Father had been seeking help from disciples... we’ve also relied on religious people & been disappointed. We need Jesus, not disciples.
 - Jesus: “Everything is possible for one who believes.”
 - “Help me overcome my unbelief!”
 - You doubting today? **Time to overcome.** Yes – **Jesus Can!**
 - Jesus can give you your life back. Everything is possible.

Mark 5:1-20 – another healing of a demon-possessed man.

- Vs. 1-8 describe his condition.
 - People tried to help, but they couldn’t. He couldn’t change/stop.
 - Chained ... banished ... alone/isolated ... given up all hope on him. He must have felt hopeless. Could see no way out.
 - This story reminds us we have **hope in Jesus**. Hope in a savior who can release us from chains... restore our lives.

- Jesus asks the name – “legions” – reveals this is a spiritual battle
 - This man was not the problem, the Enemy was.
 - Jesus didn’t ask how he got this unclean spirit . . . Jesus is not concerned w/ our past . . . He is concerned about our future.
 - Jesus also doesn’t blame/condemn the man
 - He is there to release him . . . grace . . . love . . . mercy. Hope.
- Jesus sends the spirit into the pigs. Pigs go off the ledge / drown.
 - That result shows us what the Enemy wants w/ us.
 - **1 Peter 5:8** – “Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.”
- Healing happened after Jesus calmed the water to cross the Sea; He crosses the Sea, heals the man, and leaves.
 - Jesus went there just for that man. Jesus will go to you, too.
 - Too often, we think we’re too far gone. We’re not. Jesus loves us.
 - Too often, we don’t think Jesus sees us ... that anything will change.
 - But Jesus brings hope to the hopeless. **Jesus can!**

Hopeless situation – Aug. 5, 2010 – copper/gold mine collapsed in Chile

½ mile underground: **33** trapped beneath some of hardest rock on the planet.

- unprecedented: depth at which miners were entombed, unstable rock formation, & mine’s age & notorious safety record.
- 2 days later, a 2nd rockfall blocked ventilation shafts. No communic.
- limited supply of food/water. 1% chance of rescue/survival. Hopeless.
- **Jose Henriquez**. Christian. Prayed daily, noon & 6 pm. Praise songs.
- “God didn’t need doors” to get to the men. *“Serve a living God who can”*
 - **Greg Hall**, drilling specialist. All calculations said: impossible.
 - Laws of Physics said it was not technically possible.
 - 400 ft, drill stuck. Hall prayed: “We’ve done all we can do.”
- **Aug. 22** – rescuers drilled small hole 2,300 ft. **17 days**. Hope. Communic.
- **69 days later - Oct. 13, 2010** – **world watched the Chilean mine rescue**.
It took **22 hours** to bring up all 33 minors. All survived.
 - Jesus makes the lost, found. He gives life, enemy steals.
 - Who can make a broken life whole? **Jesus can.**
 - Who can give our lives purpose & meaning? **Jesus can**
 - Who turns our struggles & defeats into victory? **Jesus can.**

No matter what struggles we face . . . know that **Jesus Can!**

- 22 miners dedicated their lives to Jesus. Wore t-shirts: “Gracias, Señor”
- When Jesus healed - “legions” – He said “go home to your people, tell how much the Lord has done for you, tell how He has had mercy on you”
 - o Are you telling your story? Sharing Hoping. Announcing **Jesus Can!**

Song/week - “Jesus Can” – Justin French.

MARK 9 ¹⁴ When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵ As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. ¹⁶ “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

¹⁷ A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸ Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

¹⁹ “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” ²⁰ So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹ Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. ²² “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

²³ “If you can’t?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵ When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

²⁸ After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” ²⁹ He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

MARK 5 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.^[a] ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. ¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis^[a] how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.