

Μὴ φοβοῦ, μόνον πίστευε. “Do not fear; only believe.”

Adult Bible Study Mark 5
Theme: Jesus’ Authority Over Chaos, Disease, and Death

Key Verse: Mark 5:36
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“Do not fear; only believe.”

I. The Gerasene Demoniac (Mark 5:1–20)

1. Observation 5:1–5 aloud

Notice:

- Gentile region (Decapolis)
- Tombs (unclean space; Num 19:11)
- Chains broken repeatedly
- Self-harm
- Isolation

Greek Focus

πνεύματι ἀκαθάρτῳ “*With an unclean spirit.*”

– ἀκάθαρτος = ritually impure, defiled.

Τί ἐμοὶ καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ; “*What do you have to do with me, Jesus?*”

(A Semitic confrontation formula.)

Λεγιὼν ὄνομά μοι, ὅτι πολλοὶ ἐσμεν “*My name is Legion, for we are many.*”

– *Legion* = Roman military unit (~6,000).

Possible political undertone in occupied Judea.

ἱματισμένον καὶ σωφρονοῦντα “*Clothed and in his right mind.*”

– σωφρονέω = restored to sanity, wholeness.

2. Interpretation

This man embodies:

- Ritual uncleanness (tombs)
- Gentile impurity (pigs)
- Spiritual oppression
- Social alienation

Jesus enters maximum uncleanness territory and dominates it.

OT Echo:

- Chaos waters subdued (Psalm 74:13–14)
- Leviathan imagery (Isaiah 27:1)

Jesus sends demons into pigs → pigs into sea → symbolic defeat of chaos.

3. Discussion

1. Why are townspeople afraid after the healing?
2. What does “Legion” suggest about the scale of evil?
3. Why does Jesus send the healed man home instead of allowing him to follow?
4. Where do we see “living among tombs” today?

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II. The Woman with the Hemorrhage (Mark 5:25–34)

(Notice Mark’s literary “sandwich” her story interrupts Jairus’.)

1. Observation

- 12 years suffering
- Financial ruin
- Social isolation (Lev 15:25–27)

Anything she touched became unclean.

2. Greek Focus

γυνὴ ἐν ῥύσει αἵματος δώδεκα ἔτη

“A woman in a flow of blood twelve years.”

πολλὰ παθοῦσα

“Having suffered many things.”

ἤψατο τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ

“She touched his garment.”

Ἐὰν ἅψωμαι... σωθήσομαι

“If I touch... I will be saved/healed.”

– σωθήσομαι (future of σόζω) = saved, healed, rescued.

ἐπιγνοῦς... δύναμιν ἐξεληθοῦσαν

“Perceiving that power had gone out.”

Θυγάτηρ, ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέν σε

“Daughter, your faith has saved you.”

– σέσωκεν (perfect tense) = has saved and remains saved.

3. Interpretation

Under Levitical law:

- She transmits uncleanness.
- Jesus should become unclean.

But in Mark 5:

Impurity does not contaminate Jesus.

Holiness flows outward.

This is kingdom reversal.

4. Discussion

1. What risks did she take socially and religiously?
2. Why does Jesus stop and make her speak publicly?
3. What is the difference between crowd contact and faith contact?
4. Why call her “Daughter”?
5. Where does shame operate quietly in the church today?

III. Jairus’ Daughter (Mark 5:21–24, 35–43)

1. Observation

- Jairus: synagogue ruler

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- Falls at Jesus’ feet
- Delay while woman is healed
- News: daughter dead

Mark builds tension intentionally.

2. Greek Focus

τὸ θυγάτριόν μου ἐσχάτως ἔχει

“My little daughter is at the point of death.”

Μὴ φοβοῦ, μόνον πίστευε

“Stop fearing; keep believing.”

(Present imperative ongoing trust.)*Important In Life*

οὐκ ἀπέθανεν ἀλλὰ καθεύδει

“She has not died but sleeps.”

Ταλιθὰ κουμ

Aramaic: *“Little girl, arise.”*

Greek translation:

Τὸ κοράσιον, σοὶ λέγω, ἔγειρε

“Little girl, I say to you, rise.”

καὶ εὐθὺς ἀνέστη

“Immediately she arose.”

3. Interpretation

Touching a corpse = defilement (Num 19:11).

Again:

Death does not defile Jesus.

Life flows outward.

OT Echo:

- Elijah & Elisha raising children (1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4)
But they pray.
Jesus commands.

Authority escalates:

Demons → Disease → Death.

4. Discussion

1. Why does Mark interrupt Jairus’ story?
2. How might Jairus have felt during the delay?
3. Why limit the crowd at the resurrection?
4. What does this story teach about faith in delay?
5. How do fear and faith compete in suffering?

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IV. Theological Synthesis

1. Reversal of Uncleanness

Situation	Law Expectation	What Happens
Demoniac	Uncleanness spreads	Demons expelled
Woman	Jesus becomes unclean	She becomes clean
Dead girl	Jesus defiled	Girl raised

Kingdom holiness overwhelms impurity.

2. Fear vs Faith

Mark contrasts:

- Townspeople → fear → rejection
- Woman → fear → confession → restoration
- Jairus → fear → deeper faith

3. Meaning of Faith (πίστις)

Faith in Mark 5 is:

- Desperate approach
- Public confession
- Persistent trust
- Belief despite delay

Final Reflection Questions

1. Which character do you most identify with?
2. Where are you experiencing delay?
3. What “tombs” need resurrection power?
4. How does Mark 5 redefine holiness?
5. What does “μόνον πίστευε” mean in your life right now?