

“When Pigs Fly”

If you have your Bibles, go with me to the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark at chapter 5, is where we will be this morning. Today I have a message titled “When Pigs Fly.” Saying “I’ll do it when pigs fly” is a statement saying that you will never do it, because pigs will never fly. It is basically a fun way to say something is impossible. Another football year is over and many people here in Texas will say to themselves, “The Cowboys will win the Super Bowl when pigs fly. At least that’s how it feels.

Here in Mark chapter 5, we are going to see Jesus do the impossible. Mark 5 is the longest recorded exorcism in the Bible. Normally when Jesus cast out a demon, it was done by declaring a single word or sentence. In this case there is an interesting process. I believe we can learn a few things this morning that will help us believe God at His Word even if it looks impossible.

Many of us are facing impossible situations. It may be a child that needs to come back to the Lord. It may be a better job. It might be a financial or health burden. I pray today that through His Word you might find faith to believe God for the impossible. Let’s turn to the Scripture. Mark 5 beginning in verse 1:

They came to the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gerasenes. 2 When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him, 3 and he had his dwelling among the tombs. And no one was able to bind him anymore, even with a chain; 4 because he had often been bound with shackles and chains, and the chains had been torn apart by him and the shackles broken in pieces, and no one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and gashing himself with stones. 6 Seeing Jesus from a distance, he ran up and bowed down before Him;

The Gerasenes was a location in the Decapolis which was ten cities mainly filled with Gentiles. The herded pigs which were an unclean animal. For a Jewish person it was not only forbidden to eat pork, but if you touched a pig, you would be unclean because they were unclean animals. Notice that Jesus went to places when Jews normally don’t go. Sometimes Christians need to go to places they are not typically at. Back in San Diego there was a mega-church that had a ministry to strippers. The pastor made it clear that this was a “female only ministry.” I believe that sometimes Christians need to go to dark places because we carry the light and power of God.

This demon possessed man was so strong even chains couldn’t hold him down. I really wonder why Jesus went to this place. In most demonic cases in the Bible, we see people bringing the demonic to Jesus to deliver it. In this case Jesus goes to the demon. Maybe Jesus had compassion and mercy knowing that this severely demon possessed person would never have the opportunity to get free. Then something crazy happens. When Jesus’ feet hit the ground off the boat, the demon possessed man that no one can subdue comes bowing in front of Jesus. It is a cool scene to see demons having to bow in respect to the true King of Kings. However, I looked up the word for bow down in the Greek and you know what I found out? The word there means to worship. It is the same word used when the wisemen bowed and worshipped the new born King. One thing

we have to remember is that the same Holy Spirit that allowed Jesus to do that, is the same Holy Spirit that lives in us.

7 and shouting with a loud voice, he said, “What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!” 8 For He had been saying to him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” 9 And He was asking him, “What is your name?” And he said to Him, “My name is Legion; for we are many.”

Every believer needs this passage of Scripture to shape your doctrine about demons. It was Jesus against literally thousands of demons. A legion is anywhere from 5-6,000 soldiers. Can you imagine fighting 6,000 demons at one time? But what happens? The demons bowed to worship God and were terrified of the power of Jesus. They begged Him not to torment them. I think that so many Christians are nervous and scared of the spiritual warfare they may encounter for being a believer. We have the power, we are on the winning side, and deliverance ministry should be easy in the presence of God.

10 And he began to implore Him earnestly not to send them out of the country. 11 Now there was a large herd of swine feeding nearby on the mountain. 12 The demons implored Him, saying, “Send us into the swine so that we may enter them.” 13 Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two thousand of them; and they were drowned in the sea. 14 Their herdsmen ran away and reported it in the city and in the country. And the people came to see what it was that had happened. 15 They came to Jesus and observed the man who had been demon-possessed sitting down, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the “legion”; and they became frightened. 16 Those who had seen it described to them how it had happened to the demon-possessed man, and all about the swine. 17 And they began to implore Him to leave their region.

The people of the Gerasenes saw pigs fly that day. Literally and spiritually. Thousands of pigs physically flew through the air to their deaths. The God of “all things are possible” won against the impossible. The words right mind in the Greek mean “having sober judgment” and “being self-controlled.” This man with thousands of demons was healed in a single moment with Jesus. This poor man who had been suffering terribly at the hands of demons was healed in an instant by the presence of God. When you encounter the living God things should change. You can’t enter the presence of God and then leave unchanged.

18 As He was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed was imploring Him that he might accompany Him. 19 And He did not let him, but He said to him, “Go home to your people and report to them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He had mercy on you.” 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in Decapolis what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed. – Mark 5:1-20 NASB1995

If I was just healed of 6,000 demons, I would want to go with Jesus too. Like, “Jesus don’t leave me here in this crazy city it is full of demons.” But Jesus told him to stay and tell everyone his story. This demoniac was now commissioned by Jesus as an evangelist. No seminary degree, no ministry training, no discipleship. This man was just set from demons an hour ago and God

already gave him a ministry. Listen, you don't need all the degrees in the world or work in full-time ministry to be used by God. If you have encountered Jesus, you have a story.

Jesus making this man stay behind to testify was powerful. Think about it. *Everyone* saw how possessed this man was. They saw him break chains. They saw him cut himself. They saw him knock out several men at a time. Then out of nowhere he is healed and set free. It was impossible. There was no way this man would ever be set free. They probably believed they would not have peace in their city until this man died. But God.

We need the right perspective in spiritual warfare which is the enemy has been defeated. I believe too many Christians today are not seeing the impossible become possible in their lives because they are intimidated by demons. Last week we talked about doubt and that the disciples could not cast out the demon of the little boy. Personally, I believe the disciples were intimidated by the demon. The boy was suicidal and it was a horrific scene. I believe we will see more of the impossible becoming possible when we truly understand and believe the authority and power the Lord gave us.

When Gabriel was about two or three years old, we had a battle with a demon in his room. Somewhere around 2 in the morning I would hear screaming from his bedroom. At the time we had his door open with a little kid gate so he wouldn't wander off throughout the house in the middle of the night. I would run to his room, and he was looking over his shoulder screaming as if there was a rabid dog trying to kill him. I went into his room and prayed and waited and there was nothing. We stayed in his room until he went back to sleep. But it happened again the next night and then the next night. So, by the fourth night I woke up in the middle of the night. I was determined to stay awake and catch the demon who had been terrorizing my son. Right around 2am I heard the growling. Like clockwork Gabe wakes up screaming and running to the door. When I get there, I see the demon. The demon was actually in the form of a Lightning McQueen alarm clock. Gabriel's great grandma had given him a Lightning McQueen alarm clock for his birthday. Apparently, the clock came preset at 2am and the alarm sound was the revving of an engine. So not a growling demon, but a fake engine noise. I sat down with Gabe and while the alarm clock was going off, I took the batteries out in front of him to show him that the clock would not make noise anymore.

When Jesus came to earth, He pulled the batteries out of the demonic. Jesus disarmed all principalities and made the devil a spectacle. Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil and set us all free. The problem is that not every Christian believes this. If they truly believed it, they wouldn't walk in fear or intimidation. Today I want to encourage you to not only kill intimidation but begin to believe God for the impossible. If you are taking notes please fill out point number one:

POINT #1 – Redefine your Understanding of what's possible.

Why does God give us tasks that seem impossible? I believe God gives us more than we are capable of so that we will never attempt to do something under our own power. The impossible forces the need of relationship with the Miracle Maker. God has commanded us to make disciples of all nations. He has called us to preach the Gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, and

cast out demons. But He never asked us to do these things alone. I have prayed and seen a psychic card reader get healed by simply praying “Father thank You for Your love...” And she got healed right there. It is acknowledging God in the middle of the impossible and following His lead. But we have to be convinced of this. In Matthew 19:26 Jesus says, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” I don’t know what your problem, addiction, or struggle is today...but it falls under the category of “all things are possible.” The prophet Jeremiah had the right understanding in chapter 32:17 when he declared, “Ah, Lord God! You made the heavens and earth by Your great power and outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for You.” We need to get this understanding deep down in the fibers of our soul.

I challenge you to make a daily practice of renewing your mind in the power of God. I can’t tell you how many times I wrote a sermon over something I was struggling with. Let’s say I was battling anger really bad. One of my thoughts would be, “You are a pastor, what would you tell someone in your church about anger if they were struggling with it?” So, I would go to the Scripture, and a sermon would come out of it. Take whatever you think is impossible and then find a biblical framework of why it can be possible. I have said this a thousand times but when we were transitioning from California to Texas (bless God) I keep Romans 4:18-22 as the wallpaper on my phone. Dozens of times a day I would read, “And without wavering in unbelief Abraham grew strong in faith believing that what God had promised He was also able to perform.” For two years I looked at that scripture everyday saying, “I won’t waver in unbelief, I will grow strong in faith, I won’t waver in unbelief, I will grow strong in faith.”

POINT #2 – Rely more on the Spiritual than Physical.

This demon possessed man could physically break off chains, but he couldn’t spiritually shake off the demons. He had strength but no self-control. One of the most amazing things about this whole story is that this man was hopeless. No one would bring this man to the other side of the lake to find Jesus for deliverance. No one in the Decapolis could set him free. This man would have died in that condition if Jesus didn’t come over to his side of the lake. Aren’t you grateful for the mercy and grace of the Lord? Sometimes in our worst struggles Jesus just meets us where we are at and through His mercy helps us get to where we need to be. Jesus was not afraid to go into demonic territory. I wonder if Jesus wanted to go to the Decapolis just for that one man. Jesus is not intimidated by you or your failure.

Notice that the demon possessed man was not in Bible studies or a Mediterranean coffee shop yakking it up with people. No, he was alone. The enemy works hard to isolate you. If he keeps you from godly people, he will succeed at keeping you from break through.

POINT #3 – Rehearse the Power of God.

I saw a post on Facebook the other day. The post had a picture of a pastor who is popular with a healing ministry holding up a book about healing. They have seen countless supernatural healings in their ministry. The person who posted the picture of this pastor said in the caption, “Never trust a pastor who is holding a book on healing while he wears glasses and whose wife died of cancer.” The post was sad, but it paints a picture of what our culture and society is

dealing with. Many refuse to believe a good God of power because of the hurt they see in the world.

Maybe you need to take your struggle and find multiple places in the Scripture where God gave a breakthrough in that area. Maybe you need to start journaling and keeping a history of testimonies so that when you are doubting you can go remind yourself of all the times God came through for you. Bottomline, be convinced of God's power through you. Jeremiah believed all things were possible because he compared what he was facing with the fact that God created the heavens and earth. If God was strong enough to make all of this out of nothing, He was strong enough for the problem.