

The Power of Jesus' Love

Mark 5

Big Idea – Jesus shows He has all power; we can tap into the power of Jesus' love.

In his book *Through The Eyes of Faith*, John Powell tells about his prison ministry. Once a month, he visits a prisoner in the state penitentiary. He shares how difficult that is for him personally... the atmosphere is dismal, dark, depressing... and charged with suspicion.

However, on one occasion, Powell said he had an enlightening and inspiring experience in that stern and somber prison environment.

An elderly woman was standing beside him as they moved through the visitor line and went through numerous security checkpoints. They were required to produce ID; they had to pass through metal detectors; they were led by heavily armed guards through countless doors made of strong steel bars. And through it all, John Powell said he could not help but notice how this sweet, dear woman was smiling warmly toward everyone, waving tenderly to the guards, calling many of them by name, and greeting everyone in a kind and loving way.

John Powell was fascinated with her. She was absolutely radiant. She was a ray of sunshine and a breath of fresh air in that sullen place. Suddenly, John Powell said to her, "You know, I'll bet you bring a lot of love into this world with your smiling face and words."

"Father," she replied, "I decided long ago that there are no strangers in my world. Only brothers and sisters. Some of them I just haven't met yet."

Reflecting on that experience, John Powell wrote this remarkable paragraph. Listen closely. He writes:

"That lady drew out of me a deep and warm reaction of love. And gradually I came to realize that people are not one thing, good or bad, but many things.

In every human being there is warmth, love, affection, but there is also hurt, anger, weakness. We stimulate or draw out of them one or the other. It all depends upon our approach, and our approach depends upon our attitude."

And then Powell writes these concluding words:

"This was the genius of Jesus. He took people where they were and loved them into life. This is precisely what Jesus did for those whose lives He touched. He was a living portrait of love in action. And the caption under the portrait reads: Please love one another as I have loved you. Yes... this was the genius of Jesus. He took people where they were and loved them into life."

Here in Mark chapter 5 see the power of Jesus love in 3 true stories. The first story is about the Gadarene demoniac.

Mark 5:1-7

- 1 So they arrived at the other side of the lake, in the region of the Gadarenes.
- 2 When Jesus climbed out of the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit came out from a cemetery to meet him. (Matt. 8:28 says 2 men, one especially vocal).
- 3 This man lived among the burial caves and could no longer be restrained, even with a chain.
- 4 Whenever he was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he snapped the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him.
- 5 Day and night he wandered among the burial caves and in the hills, howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.
- 6 When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him, ran to meet him, and bowed low before him.
- 7 With a shriek, he screamed, “Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In the name of God, I beg you, don’t torture me!”

1. He shows His Power over Demons (vs. 1-20)

Here we see in this story the effects of Satan, society and the Savior.

First, we see what Satan can do to people. Satan is a thief whose ultimate purpose is to destroy (John 10:10; and see Rev. 9:11).

Because they yielded to Satan, the thief, these two men lost everything! They lost their homes and the fellowship of their families and friends. They lost their decency as they ran around in the tombs naked. They lost their self-control and lived like wild animals, screaming, cutting themselves, and frightening the citizens. They lost their peace and their purpose for living, and they would have remained like that if Jesus not come to rescue them.

John 8:44 “...He was a murderer from the beginning...a liar, and the father of lies...”

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

In Revelation 9:11 he’s named Apollyon, the destroyer.

Never underestimate the destructive power of Satan. He is our enemy and would destroy all of us if he could. Like a roaring lion, he seeks to devour us

1 Peter 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

8 Control yourselves and be careful! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.

Satan is at work in the lives of unbelievers, making them “children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:1-3).

Notice Jesus’ encounter with the demons.

2. He shows His Power over Disease - vs. 21 - 34

Jairus was rich & powerful, the woman was poor & powerless!

Jesus welcomed and helped both of them.

Jairus was about to lose a daughter who had given him twelve years of happiness - the woman was about to lose an affliction that had brought her twelve years of sorrow.

The woman had a hemorrhage that was apparently incurable and was slowly destroying her. She had one added burden: according to the Law, she was ceremonially unclean which restricted both her religious and her social life (Lev. 15:19-25).

What kind of faith did she have? It was weak, timid, and perhaps somewhat superstitious. She kept saying to herself that she had to touch His clothes in order to be healed (see Mark 3:10; 6:56). She had heard reports of others being healed by Jesus (Mark 5:27), so she made this one great attempt to get through to the Saviour. She was not disappointed: Jesus honored her faith, weak as it was, and healed her body.

good lesson here – everybody doesn't have the same degree of faith, but Jesus responds to faith no matter how feeble it might be.

When we believe, He shares His power with us and something happens in our lives.

There were many others in that crowd who were close to Jesus and even pressing against Him, but they experienced no miracles. Why? Because they did not have faith. It is one thing to throng Him and quite something else to trust Him.

The woman planned to slip away and get lost in the crowd, but Jesus turned and stopped her. He elicited from her a wonderful testimony of what the Lord had done for her. Why did Jesus deal with her publicly? Why did He not simply permit her to remain anonymous and go her way?

For one thing, He did it for her own sake. He wanted to be to her something more than a healer: He wanted to be her Savior and Friend as well. He wanted her to look into His face, feel His tenderness, and hear His loving words of assurance. By the time He finished speaking to her, she experienced something more than physical healing. He called her "daughter" and sent her on her way with a benediction of peace (Mark 5:34). To "be made whole" meant much more than receiving mere physical healing. Jesus had given her spiritual healing as well!

He dealt with her publicly not only for her sake, but also for the sake of Jairus. His daughter was close to death, and he needed all the encouragement he could get. It was bad enough that the crowd was slowing down their progress, but now this woman had to interfere and stop Jesus! When one of Jairus' friends arrived and announced that the girl had died, maybe Jairus felt that the end had come. The Lord's words to the woman about faith and peace must have encouraged Jairus as much as they encouraged her.

Finally, Jesus dealt with her publicly that she might have the opportunity to share her testimony and glorify the Lord.

"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.... He sent His word, and healed them.... Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Ps. 107:2, 20-21)

No doubt some people in that crowd heard her words and trusted in the Savior; so when she arrived home, she already knew what it meant to witness for Christ.

3. He shows His Power over Death vs. 35 - 43

Beautiful to watch Jesus deal with Jairus and lead him to joyful victory. Throughout this entire event, it was our Lord's words that made the difference. Notice the three statements that He made.

The word of faith (v. 36).

Mark 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not be afraid; only believe."

At this point, Jairus had to believe either his friend or the Lord Jesus. No doubt all of his being responded with convulsive sorrow when he heard that his beloved daughter was dead. But Jesus assured him, "Be not afraid, keep on believing" (literal translation). In other words, "You had a certain amount of faith when you came to Me, and your faith was helped when you saw what I did for that woman. Don't quit! Keep on believing!"

It was easier for Jairus to trust the Lord while his daughter was still alive, and while Jesus was still walking with him to his house. But when Jesus stopped to heal the woman, and when the friend came with the bad news, Jairus just about lost his faith.

Don't be too hard on him. We have probably given way to doubts when circumstances and feelings have overwhelmed us. Sometimes God has delayed and we have wondered why. That is when we need that special "word of faith" from the Lord, and we receive it as we spend time in His Word.

The word of hope (v. 39).

When Jesus and Jairus arrived at the house, they saw and heard the professional Jewish mourners who were always summoned when a death occurred. It was traditional for them to weep and wail loudly. The mourners there in the home is proof that the girl was actually dead, because the family would not have called them if there had been even the slightest hope that the girl was still alive.

39 Jesus entered the house and said to them, *"Why are you crying and making so much noise? The child is not dead, only asleep."*

To the believer, death is only sleep; for the body rests until the moment of resurrection (1 Thes. 4:13-18). The spirit does not sleep; in death the spirit of the believer leaves the body (James 2:26 says body without the spirit is dead) and goes to be with Christ (Phil. 1:20-23). the body sleeps, awaiting the return of the Lord and the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-58).

This truth is a great encouragement to all of us who have had Christian loved ones and friends depart in death. It is His word of hope to us.

Notice the crowd's response, society always mocks and laughs at Jesus. "They ridiculed him..."

Unbelief laughs at God's Word, but faith lays hold of it and experiences the power of God.

The word of love and power (v. 41).

Mark 5:41 Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which is translated, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Jesus did not make a spectacle of this miracle. He was sensitive to the feelings of the parents and grieved by the scornful attitude of the mourners. Talitha cumi is Aramaic for "Little girl, get up!" Jesus added, "I say unto thee" (with the emphasis on the I), because it was by His authority that her spirit returned to her body (Luke 8:55).

The girl not only came back to life, but was also healed of her sickness, for she was able to get out of bed and walk around.

Because he was the loving Physician, Jesus instructed the astounded parents to give her some food lest she have a relapse. Divine miracles never replace commonsense human care.

John Powell wrote these words we remind ourselves of again:

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