

ENCOUNTER.

Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Lesson Three: Encounter His Power Mark 4-5

Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?
Mark 4:41

I. Jesus Teaches in Parables (Mark 4:1-34)

“Putting it all together, the most likely meaning seems to be that parables alone will not produce faith, otherwise all who hear would believe. Parables are an invitation to faith as (taking 4:14 at its face value) is the gospel itself. Neither parables in particular, nor the gospel in general, enforce or ensure faith. What is required is the secret of the kingdom of Jesus. Without that, the parables will simply go on frustrating the hearers, for they mistake the signpost for the destination, the shadow for the reality, the metaphor for the truth.”¹

A. Parable of the Sower and the Soils

Soil	Response
Beside the road (hard)	Birds ate it
Rocky ground (shallow)	Sprang up – no depth, withered
Thorny ground (distracted)	Thorns choked – yielded no crop
Good soil (fruitful)	Yielded a crop – 30, 60, 100-fold

“Neither the parable (1-8), nor the explanation (13-20), *explains* why it is so. But they do identify the source of the problem—human hardness, shallowness and self-indulgence.”²

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

“Thus says the Lord,
‘Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from the Lord.
For he will be like a bush in the desert
And will not see when prosperity comes,
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
A land of salt without inhabitant.
Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord

And whose trust is the Lord.
For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the heat comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield fruit” (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

“The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?
I, the Lord, search the heart,
I test the mind,
Even to give to each man according to his ways,
According to the results of his deeds.
As a partridge that hatches eggs which it has not laid,
So is he who makes a fortune, but unjustly;
In the midst of his days it will forsake him,
And in the end he will be a fool” (Jeremiah 17:9-11).

Psalm 1

Meditating on the Word

Journal Entries – (Belleaire Baptist Church)

Highlight what stands out – Answer these questions

1. What verse stood out?
2. How can you turn that verse into a prayer back to God?
3. What does God want you to do in response to that verse?

B. Parable of the Seed

C. Parable of the Mustard Seed

II. Jesus and the Storm (Mark 4:35-41)

“Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?” (v. 40)
Faith and fear cannot coexist in the human heart.

III. Jesus and the Demoniac (Mark 5:1-20)

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them.” ³

Early church fathers:

Justin Martyr (AD 150)

Tertullian (AD 200)

Origin (AD 250)

“For ourselves, so far are we from wishing to serve demons, that by the use of prayers and other means which we learn from Scripture, we drive them out of the souls of men, and out of places where they have established themselves.” (*Contra Celsus*)

Athanasius of Alexandria (AD 320)

Resources:

A Biblical Guide for Walking in Victory over Spiritual Darkness, David Jett

The Invisible War, Chip Ingram

Reclaiming Surrendered Ground, Jim Logan

“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Genesis 3:1).

Biblical truths about demons:

1. Demons are real and dangerous.
2. A demon (or many demons!) can inhabit and take possession of a person.
3. Demons can make themselves known by speaking through people and even taking control of their bodies.
4. Demons are fallen angels and powerful spiritual beings. They can exhibit enormous strength through a person under their control.
5. Demons can inflict serious personal injury to the one possessed and to others, with the ultimate goal of that person’s death.
6. Demons can move or be transferred from one host to another.
Demons can resist leaving their host. They may even beg, out of self-interest, for their own well-being.
7. Demons recognize and are subject to appropriate spiritual authority.

8. If demonic spirits attempted to resist the incarnate Christ, we can be sure they will also attempt to resist us.
9. Jesus spoke directly to the demon, even asking for his name. This may provide a pattern for us to follow.
10. Jesus, unlike the exorcists of His day that used elaborate rituals and incantations, simply gave the command, and the demons were forced to obey. ⁴

“If our ministry isn’t messy, then we’re not doing it right. If what we want are clean little people, in a clean little place, with clean little worship services, and clean little ministries, then we’re not doing it like Jesus did it.” ⁵

Biblical examples:

Mark 1:23-26; Mark 3:11

“Soon afterwards, He began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him, and also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and sicknesses: Mary who was called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out” (Luke 8:1-2).

“They brought the boy to Him. When he saw Him, immediately the spirit threw him into a convulsion, and falling to the ground, he began rolling around and foaming at the mouth. And He asked his father, ‘How long has this been happening to him?’ And he said, ‘From childhood. It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!’ And Jesus said to him, ‘If You can? All things are possible to him who believes.’ Immediately the boy’s father cried out and said, ‘I do believe; help my unbelief.’ When Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, ‘You deaf and mute spirit, I command you, come out of him and do not enter him again.’ After crying out and throwing him into terrible convulsions, it came out; and the boy became so much like a corpse that most of them said, ‘He is dead!’ But Jesus took him by the hand and raised him; and he got up” (Mark 9:20-27).

“And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, ‘Woman, you are freed from your sickness.’ And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God” (Luke 13:10-13).

“Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, ‘I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.’ Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. But the evil spirit answered them, ‘Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?’ And the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded” (Acts 19:13-16).

Satan deceives and lies:

“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?’” (Acts 5:3).

Satan hinders:

“For we wanted to come to you – I, Paul, more than once – and yet Satan hindered us” (1 Thessalonians 2:18).

IV. Miracles and Healing – Desperate People (Mark 5:21-43)

A. The Diseased Woman

B. Jairus’ Daughter

Jesus is Lord over:

Nature
Demons
Disease
Death

Jesus Christ Is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

¹ English, Donald, *The Message of Mark*, Logos.

² English, Donald, *The Message of Mark*, Logos.

³ Lewis, C.S., *The Screwtape Letters*, p. 6.

⁴ Akin, Daniel, *Exalting Jesus in Mark*, pp. 107-108.

⁵ Gaines, Grant, *Year of the Bible 2025*, Sermon 36.