

# Who is this?

Mark 4:35-5:20

---

## Introduction

Do you know someone who is hard to figure out? Just when you think you know them, they go ahead and surprise you once again? Do you know someone like this?

This must have been how the disciples of Jesus felt when it came to Jesus. The Lord Jesus just kept on surprising them. He not only did what they were not expecting, he did what everyone thought was impossible. The disciples as well as others found it impossible to know what to make of him. After teaching the crowds in parables and explain them to his disciples, Mark records four astonishing miracles revealing more about Jesus and his power and authority. In the study today we are going to look at the first two over these. Please read Mark 4:35-5:20.

## Confronting the storm

The first of these miracles is found at the end of chapter 4. Please read again verse 35 to 41 of chapter 4 and answer the following questions.

1. Where were Jesus and the disciples heading and what happened along the way?

2. How did Jesus respond when his disciples woke him?

3. Why were the disciples so afraid when Jesus did this?

### Think about it

Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples? How should have they responded to the storm?

Why were the disciples so surprised and frightened by what Jesus did out on the lake (see Psalm 89:8-9 and 106:9)?

What do we learn about the disciples?

What do we learn about Jesus and how does knowing this help us today face those things that we need to face?

## Confronting Legion

On the other side of the lake Jesus entered the region of Gerasenes. The eastern side of the Sea of Galilee had more of a Gentile population and was known as the Decapolis (a Greek word which meant 10 cities). Please read what happened on the other side of the lake by reading verses 1 to 13 of chapter 5.

4. Who did Jesus meet among the tombs and what was wrong with this man?

5. How had others tried to deal with the man and how had that worked out?

6. How did the man react to Jesus?

7. What did Jesus do and what happened as a result?

### Think about it

What did this encounter with the man who live among the tombs reveal about Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus allowed the demons to enter the herd of pigs?

How does Satan and his forces operate today in our world?

How have the evil spiritual forces that are at work in our world been defeated and what are we to be doing now (see Col. 2:13-15; Eph 6:10-18, James 4:7)?

We do not know exactly why Jesus gave the demons permission to enter the demons but the effect of the whole herd running into the sea left no doubt that Jesus was one who was strong enough to subdue even a legion of demons. Please read verses 14 to 20 to discover how everyone responded to this news.

8. How did the townsfolk react to Jesus what happened when they found out?

9. How did the man respond to what had happened to him?

## Think about it

Not everyone welcomes Jesus when they learn what he is really like. What have we come to learn about Jesus now?

In this story we see the two typical responses to the revelation of Jesus. What are these two typical responses and are these the only way that you can respond to him?

Why do you think the people from the town and surrounding countryside responded in the way that they did?

What do we learn about following Jesus from this story?

## Conclusion

From what we have read today it is clear that the Lord Jesus did things that none of us would have expected him to do. He did things that were impossible for any of us to do. The question that the disciples asked on the boat is one all of us need to ask ourselves. Who is this?

### Think about it

What do you think these things have revealed about Jesus and what he had come to do?

Many of the people that encountered Jesus were amazed and astonished by what he did and said. They were both attracted to him and afraid of him at the same time. How might our fears get in the way of faith and following Jesus?

Why don't we have anything to be afraid of?