



## Lesson 27 – “Peace Be Still”

Based on Matthew 8:23-34; Mark 4:23-41; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:22-39

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

**Mark 4:35-36** And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us \_\_\_\_\_ over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the \_\_\_\_\_. And there were also with him other little ships.

2) What cryptic thing did Mark mention in his Gospel?

**Mark 4:36** And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even \_\_\_\_\_ in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

All day He had been teaching and healing; and as evening came on the crowds still pressed upon Him. Day after day He had ministered to them, scarcely pausing for food or rest. The malicious criticism and misrepresentation with which the Pharisees constantly pursued Him made His labors much more severe and harassing; and now the close of the day found Him so utterly wearied that He determined to seek retirement in some solitary place across the lake.

The eastern shore of Gennesaret was not uninhabited, for there were towns here and there beside the lake; yet it was a desolate region when compared with the western side. It contained a population more heathen than Jewish, and had little communication with Galilee. Thus it offered Jesus the seclusion He sought, and He now bade His disciples accompany Him thither.

3) What happened next?

**Mark 4:37-38** And there arose a great storm of wind, and the \_\_\_\_\_ beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they \_\_\_\_\_ him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

The sun had set, and the blackness of night settled down upon the stormy sea. The waves, lashed into fury by the howling winds, dashed fiercely over the disciples' boat, and threatened to engulf it. Those hardy fishermen had spent their lives upon the lake, and had guided their craft safely through many a storm; but now their strength and skill availed nothing. They were helpless in the grasp of the tempest, and hope failed them as they saw that their boat was filling.

4) How did Matthew record their cry for help?

**Matthew 8:25** And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ us: we perish.

Their cry arouses Jesus. As the lightning's glare reveals Him, they see the peace of heaven in His face; they read in His glance self-forgetful, tender love, and, their hearts turning to Him, cry, “**Lord, save us: we perish.**”

5) What did Jesus do?

**Mark 4:39** And he arose, and \_\_\_\_\_ the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind \_\_\_\_\_, and there was a great calm.

Never did a soul utter that cry unheeded. As the disciples grasp their oars to make a last effort, Jesus rises. He stands in the midst of His disciples, while the tempest rages, the waves break over them, and the lightning illuminates His countenance. He lifts His hand, so often employed in deeds of mercy, and says to the angry sea, “**Peace, be still.**”



6) After the tumult was over, what did He ask His Disciples?

**Mark 4:40** And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

7) How did Mark record the end of that event?

**Mark 4:41** And they \_\_\_\_\_ exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

A hush fell upon the disciples. Even Peter did not attempt to express the awe that filled his heart. The boats that had set out to accompany Jesus had been in the same peril with that of the disciples. Terror and despair had seized their occupants; but the command of Jesus brought quiet to the scene of tumult. The fury of the storm had driven the boats into close proximity, and all on board beheld the miracle.

8) Who was Jesus?

**Psalms 146:5-6** Happy is he that hath the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God: Which made heaven, and earth, the \_\_\_\_\_, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever:

9) Did Jesus use that power to stop the storm?

**John 5:30** I can of mine own self do \_\_\_\_\_: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the \_\_\_\_\_ which hath sent me.

When Jesus was awakened to meet the storm, He was in perfect peace. There was no trace of fear in word or look, for no fear was in His heart. He trusted in the Father's might. It was in faith—faith in God's love and care—that Jesus rested, and the power of that word which stilled the storm was the power of God.

10) What lesson can we learn from Isaiah?

**Isaiah 57:20-21** But the wicked are like the troubled \_\_\_\_\_, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the \_\_\_\_\_.

Sin has destroyed our peace. While self is unsubdued, we can find no rest. The masterful passions of the heart no human power can control. We are as helpless here as were the disciples to quiet the raging storm. But He who spoke peace to the billows of Galilee has spoken the word of peace for every soul.

11) What did the Psalmist have to say about it?

**Psalms 107:29-30** He maketh the storm a \_\_\_\_\_, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be \_\_\_\_\_; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

12) How did Paul describe it?

**Romans 5:1** 1 Therefore being justified by \_\_\_\_\_, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

13) What did Isaiah say to give us hope?

**Isaiah 32:17** And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of \_\_\_\_\_ quietness and assurance for ever.



14) What happened when the armada of boats reached the shore?

**Matthew 8:28** And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two \_\_\_\_\_ with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way.

In the early morning the Saviour and His companions came to shore, and the light of the rising sun touched sea and land as with the benediction of peace. But no sooner had they stepped upon the beach than their eyes were greeted by a sight more terrible than the fury of the tempest. From some hiding place among the tombs, two madmen rushed upon them as if to tear them in pieces.

15) How did these men appear?

**Mark 5:3-5** Who had his dwelling among the \_\_\_\_\_; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and \_\_\_\_\_ himself with stones.

Their flesh was torn and bleeding where they had cut themselves with sharp stones. Their eyes glared out from their long and matted hair, the very likeness of humanity seemed to have been blotted out by the demons that possessed them, and they looked more like wild beasts than like men.

16) What weird thing did the demoniacs do?

**Mark 5:6** But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and \_\_\_\_\_ him,

They realized dimly that One was near who could save them from the tormenting demons. They fell at the Saviour's feet to worship Him; but when their lips were opened to entreat His mercy, the demons spoke through them.

17) What did Jesus command?

**Mark 5:8** For he said unto him, Come \_\_\_\_\_ of the man, thou unclean spirit.

18) Before the demon left, what did Jesus ask it?

**Mark 5:9** And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is \_\_\_\_\_: for we are many.

19) What did the demon(s) plead?

**Mark 5:10** And he besought him \_\_\_\_\_ that he would not send them away out of the country.

20) What happened next?

**Mark 5:11-13** Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of \_\_\_\_\_ feeding. And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may \_\_\_\_\_ into them. And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran \_\_\_\_\_ down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea.

Meanwhile a marvelous change had come over the demoniacs. Light had shone into their minds. Their eyes beamed with intelligence. The countenances, so long deformed into the image of Satan, became suddenly mild, the bloodstained hands were quiet, and with glad voices the men praised God for their deliverance.



It was in mercy to the owners of the swine that this loss had been permitted to come upon them. They were absorbed in earthly things, and cared not for the great interests of spiritual life. Jesus desired to break the spell of selfish indifference, that they might accept His grace. But regret and indignation for their temporal loss blinded their eyes to the Saviour's mercy.

21) What did the delivered men ask Jesus?

**Mark 5:18** And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might \_\_\_\_\_ with him.

22) How did Jesus respond?

**Mark 5:19** Howbeit Jesus suffered him \_\_\_\_\_, but saith unto him, Go \_\_\_\_\_ to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

23) What did these men do?

**Mark 5:20** And he departed, and began to \_\_\_\_\_ in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

Here was a work for them to do,—to go to a heathen home, and tell of the blessing they had received from Jesus. It was hard for them to be separated from the Saviour. Great difficulties were sure to beset them in association with their heathen countrymen. And their long isolation from society seemed to have disqualified them for the work He had indicated. But as soon as Jesus pointed out their duty they were ready to obey.

Not only did they tell their own households and neighbors about Jesus, but they went throughout Decapolis, everywhere declaring His power to save, and describing how He had freed them from the demons. In doing this work they could receive a greater blessing than if, merely for benefit to themselves, they had remained in His presence. It is in working to spread the good news of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour.

24) What testimony did John the Disciple give?

**1 John 1:1-3** That which was from the beginning, which we have \_\_\_\_\_, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have \_\_\_\_\_ it, and bear witness, and \_\_\_\_\_ unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard \_\_\_\_\_ we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

The two restored demoniacs were the first missionaries whom Christ sent to preach the gospel in the region of Decapolis. For a few moments only these men had been privileged to hear the teachings of Christ. Not one sermon from His lips had ever fallen upon their ears. They could not instruct the people as the disciples who had been daily with Christ were able to do. But they bore in their own persons the evidence that Jesus was the Messiah. They could tell what they knew; what they themselves had seen, and heard, and felt of the power of Christ. This is what everyone can do whose heart has been touched by the grace of God.

Though the people of Gergesa had not received Jesus, He did not leave them to the darkness they had chosen. When they bade Him depart from them, they had not heard His words. They were ignorant of that which they were rejecting. Therefore He again sent the light to them, and by those to whom they would not refuse to listen.

25) What promise do we need to treasure?

**2 Timothy 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_, and of a \_\_\_\_\_ mind.

*Can you see Jesus brings peace?*

*Would you like to be set free?*

*When is the time to share what you have?*