

JESUS IS LORD OF ALL

by Evangelist Ed Bousman

MARK FIVE

The message of Mark chapter five is, Jesus Is Lord Of All. He is Lord over Demons. He is Lord over Disease. He is Lord over Death.

LORD OVER DEMONS

And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. Mark says that Legeon saw Jesus from afar. That is a suggestion of what the devil will do in our case. He wants to keep Jesus as far off in any phase of life as possible. In fact he would rather blot Jesus out of our lives all together, but if you must consider Jesus, do it from as far away as possible. Never, never, never get any closer to the Lord than you have to. Always come early to services so that you can be assured of getting a back seat. The unclean spirit cried with a loud voice. Now listen to these demons as they hiss at the Lord, "Torment me not." Matthew adds the time element to this request. Art Thou come to torment us before the time? The devil hisses that message to the unsaved. When Jesus shows up on the beach the demons thought that He is going to start their torment ahead of time. Listen to the demons as they hiss out their view of hell. The devil believes in hell. Many people say they don't believe in it. Wonder what these people think happened to the people who were drowned by the flood in Noah's day. When they were drowned, if there was no hell, did God welcome them all into Heaven and leave poor ole Noah on earth to battle with the flood. What do you think happened to Hitler? If there is no hell, do they expect to see Der Fuhrer goose stepping down the golden sidewalks of heaven? If there is no hell what about those assassins who destroyed the twin towers? Did they go to a heaven where they had a limitless supply of virgins? Where else could they go if there is no hell? Remember; how the demons hissed out the truth of the matter when they said, "Torment me not." Another message the demons hiss is in regards to their number. Jesus asked him, "What is thy name? Legion for we are many." There were many demons in this one man. This fact indicates how vast the number of evil spirits there are in the forces of evil. If the devil could spare that many to torment one man, surely the forces of darkness are of an overwhelming number. The philosophy of the demons was the same as many we meet every day. They hissed, What have we to do with thee? They want nothing to do with Jesus Christ either here or in eternity. If the unforgiven could go to Heaven he would be so miserable that it would be hell for him and he would want to leave and find peace in hell. They hate angels, they hate the Church, they hate Jesus, and like Adam when he sinned he did not want to be in God's presence. The demons made a request to the Lord. Since He was going to cast them out they asked Him to allow them to enter into the hogs. Jesus gave them leave and no sooner did they enter into the hogs than all two thousand of them ran down a hill and drowned in the water. It is a morbid thought and I do not like to dwell on it but we can't help note that if the Devil ever gets control of your life he will rush you as fast as he can into the lake, the lake of fire. This demon filled man said that his name was Legion for we are many. What kind of a life style does a person have whose life is controlled by the devil? For one thing no man could bind him; no not even with chains and locks.

He could break these restraints like spider webs. People are breaking the chains of restraint today. A description of modern man is found in the second Psalm. Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. People are not going to be bound by any laws of God. Mankind has a feeling of kinship with the worst criminals. That is why our nation has such a soft attitude on punishment. We need bigger and better jails; serving hard time would give the convict all the exercise he needs without barbells. We need to bring back the electric chair, a high tech chair with bucket seats. It is hard to understand these bleeding heart liberals. They want to kill babies yet they don't want to execute rapists and murderers. That is about the stupidest reasoning a sane person like myself can imagine. Many today like Legion are crying out. Just turn on the radio and television and listen to their unintelligible hissing as they bellow out the ballads of Beelzebub. They cut themselves with something worse than stones. They perforate their lungs by inhaling smoke. They destroy their livers by drinking poison. They fry their brains by shooting cocaine. Mankind controlled by the Devil of course lives like Legion. We live among the tombs. It is impossible to drive around a city or countryside very long without seeing a cemetery. We always hear the hiss of the serpent in every funeral procession. When the towns people came out to investigate they found the man sitting at the feet of Jesus clothed and in his right mind. In other words before he came under the influence of Christ he was insane. A person today to live without Jesus Christ is a real nut and that the kindest thing I can say about it. Think too, of the fact that he went around naked. No wonder he lived alone. Actually if the devil had his way we would all take our clothes off. The devil hisses it is all right because everybody else is doing it. The town's people wanted Jesus to leave. The reason being Jesus was too expensive. I asked a farmer about the price of hogs. He said a good rule of thumb would be a hundred dollars for a pig just big enough to get to market. Now think of that. Two thousand hogs floating belly up in the water would be worth about two hundred thousand dollars if they only weighed a hundred pounds. That was quite a jolt in the local economy. It was nice of Jesus to make this demoniac a good citizen, but the price was too high. Jesus we can't afford you; get out of here. The demons always hiss when money is mentioned regarding the ongoing of the Church. They besought Him to depart from their borders. That is a haunting statement. Depart from our borders. Jesus Himself will use the same words some day to many when He says, "Depart from Me ye cursed into the eternal fire." The parting word of the Lord to the man He delivered from the demons was, "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee." And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus done for him: and all men did marvel. Whenever a person has a personal encounter with Jesus today, he like Legion will want to be with Jesus all he can and will have a story to tell about the great things the Lord has done for him. Remember this man had a legion of demons inside of him who dominated his life, but Jesus was more powerful than all of them, and thereby demonstrated that He is Lord over Demons. Next we note that He is Lord over Disease.

LORD OVER DISEASE

And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse. When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. At last she had found the right Doctor. She had found the Great Physician. Some Doctors today specialize. Some are specialists in feet, some in eyes, some in babies, some in brains. Some with people who have no brains. Jesus is a specialist in everything. He is a good chiropractor. One time a woman was bowed

together for eighteen years and could not lift herself up. He laid His hands on her and immediately she was made straight and glorified God. One adjustment was all that was needed. He was a great eye doctor. One time He healed a man from blindness who was born blind. He was a good psychiatrist, with one look He could tell what they were thinking; He knew their thoughts. He could heal deafness by putting His fingers in their ears. How was that for laser surgery? In this case He demonstrated that He was a great blood Doctor. The list of His specialties goes on and on. This would be a real test for the Great Physician. Sick for eighteen years and no one else could heal her. A doctor who could have healed her would have been written up in all the medical journals of that day. He would have been world famous. However there was no shot, or pill, or antibiotic, or operation that could do her any good. This woman reminds me of many who are spiritually sick. They try all kinds of spiritual doctors and get worse all the time instead of better. Some people depend on Doctor Feeling to pull them out of it. I overheard people talking at a nearby table in a restaurant, and one of them was evidently a preacher. I heard him tell the others that the Lord had told him five things He wanted him to do after the first of the year. I wondered at the time, "How did the Lord tell him? Did He call him on the phone? Did He fax him a message? Or did He just holler it down to him from Heaven?" I suppose if someone had asked him he would have said something like it was a subjective message. In other words he just felt the Lord was talking to him. Many depend on this approach. They tell you they are saved because they feel like they are saved. Tell them that the Lord speaks to them from the Bible and they insist, "Yes but I feel like I am all right." Doctor Feeling has a wonderful bedside manner. I mentioned to a man one time that Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," and he said he felt he was all right even though he had not done what the Lord said. Some people spend all they have on Doctor Denomination. I heard one man pray in a church service, "O Lord, there are over three hundred denominations in the Christian religion and I thank you for ever single one of them." He must have been a very wicked man or a very ignorant man considering the prayer that Jesus prayed when He said, "I pray that they all might be one." How could anyone thank God for division among people who love the Lord? Perhaps the greatest hindrance to unity is denominational pride. Doctor Denomination will never heal a sin sick world. Then there are some that worship Doctor Baptism. Remember the woman that had the issue of blood reached out and touched the garment of Jesus. We sometimes use the words of Paul regarding baptism when he said in the book of Romans. "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." While it is important to practice the right mode of baptism, it needs to be pointed out that a person can be buried in the water and at the same time never be buried with Christ. Simply being buried in water just won't cut it. The woman with the issue of blood touched His garment. When you were buried in baptism were you buried with Him? Was repentance involved? If not then you had the shell without the kernel. Without repentance you went down into the water alone, got wet, and came up alone. At baptism you reach out and touch the cross, you touch the blood; you touch the garment, the Wedding Garment of Jesus. When you touch the garment that is when Paul's words in Galatians become reality. "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Reach out today and touch the garment and be made whole. It is at this point that Jesus will say to you as He said to the woman the issue of Blood. "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." Jesus is Lord of all. He is Lord over Demons. He is Lord over Disease. And now in the place He is Lord over Death.

LORD OVER DEATH

And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, and besought him greatly, saying, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live." The majority of people turn to thoughts of religion at the time of death. They may never show any interest any other time, but when a loved one dies many will turn to a preacher. So it was in this case. We have often said, "Don't wait for the hearse to bring you to Church. If you do they will bring you right up front. You won't sing, pray, or take the Lord's Supper. Your fellowship will already be in progress somewhere else." It may never have actually happened and then again maybe it did. A preacher had talked to someone about attending services and the promise was "I will come when I get straightened out." Time and time again the same excuse was given and then one day the man died and enough the family brought him to the Church for the memorial service. The preacher wanted to say something comforting regarding the corpse and said, this man was a truthful man. He always said he would come to services as soon as he got straightened out. I will have to say that he is just about as straightened out as he is ever going to be. Usually the religious feeling is short lived. In a few days it is back to business as usual. If death makes people think of spiritual matters it is well that the preacher take advantage of the situation and preach the gospel at the moment when those in the audience are more attuned to eternity than at other times. What would you think of a doctor who examined you and knew that you had cancer, but to make you feel good told you that you were in the best of health? People may not want to hear the truth, but they need to hear it anyway. They expect you to preach their loved one to the front row of heaven with a crown on his head and a harp in his hand regardless of his relationship with Christ. Many listening to me at this time may feel as the audience did about Jesus in this case before us. When He said that the damsel is not dead but sleepeth they laughed Him to scorn. They laughed at Jesus, so we are in good company when they laugh at us. Jesus told Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe." Only believe. That's it. That is the secret for unity of all that would be united in Christ. Only believe. Just only believe what Peter told you to do in the name of Jesus Christ when he said, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. . ." If everyone would only believe that, there would be no division on the matter of how to be saved. "Be not afraid, only believe." Try that formula on any thing where the Lord has spoken. Only believe. And taking the child by the hand, "He saith unto her Talitha Cumi Damsel arise." And straightway she arose and walked for she was twelve years old. He commanded that they should give her something to eat. That is a good thing for the church to remember. Whenever there is a baptism and a person is buried with Christ and raised to walk in a newness of life give them something to eat. Give them the Lord's Supper on every first day of the week and feed them the bread of life in the teaching and preaching of the word of God, which is the bread of life. This was the same argument for the resurrection that He would later use on the Apostles concerning His own resurrection. "Have you any thing to eat?" And they gave him a honeycomb and a piece of broiled fish? By taking food there was no doubt that He was not just a Spirit but in fact a resurrected body. When Jairus's daughter came out of the room she was eating a Big Mac with fries, and sipping a classic Coca-Cola through a straw, there was no doubt about her resurrection. This was the real thing. Jesus is indeed, Lord over Demons, Lord over Disease and Lord over Death.

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> "GOD IS JUST A PRAYER AWAY"

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