

Slide content for Mark 4:35-5:20 “Perfect Love Casts Out Fear” (6/26/22)

Outline:

Russell Moore, “If, as both ancient and contemporary wisdom tell us, stories exist to help us categorize our fears and aspirations, then “wild” children’s stories remind us of what we see everywhere in human art – from cave paintings to country music to the Cannes Film Festival: we’re afraid of the wildness “out there” in the scary universe around us. Whether we fear saber-toothed tigers or Wall Street collapse or malaria or our parents’ impending divorce, there are frightening, threatening forces out there that seem outside of our control.

And worse than that, we seem to fear, perhaps most of all, the uncontrollable “wildness” inside of us – those passions and desires and rages and longings and sorrows within our psyches that seem to be even scarier because they’re so hidden, so close, and so much at the core of who we are. The wildness within us doesn’t seem to end, either. It just morphs throughout the life cycle from toddler-age tantrums to teenage hormones to midlife crises and beyond.

Such stories – and they are legion, in every culture – show us what we seem to know intuitively – that the wildness, both out there and in here, needs to be governed. The wildness needs to be reined in, and reigned in. We need a king, and we need to be part of a kingdom.” (Moore, *Tempted and Tried*, 164)

1) The Lord of the storm (4:35-41)

a. Getting into the boat

James Edwards, “The Sea of Galilee lies nearly 700 feet below sea level in a basin surrounded by hills and mountains that are especially precipitous on the east side. Thirty miles to the northeast Mt. Hermon rises to 9,200 feet above sea level. The interchange between cold upper air from Mt. Hermon and warm air rising from the Sea of Galilee produces tempestuous weather conditions for which the lake has become famous. The ‘furious squall’ of v37, which in Greek can mean ‘hurricane’, fits the stories of Galilean fishermen even today.”

b. The question

c. The rebuke

d. The question

e. THE question

Psalm 65:7-8 God is... “the one...who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.

Psalm 89:8 O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you? ⁹ You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.

f. Someone greater than Jonah

Luke 11:32 "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, **something greater than Jonah is here.**

2) The Lord of the spirits (5:1-20)

- a. Getting out of the boat
- b. The encounter
- c. The exorcism
- d. Aims
- e. What do we make of the pigs?

“In the eyes of Jesus, the rescue and restoration of one person is more important than vast capital assets. Compared to the redemption of a human being, the loss of the swineherds, considerable though it is, does not rate mentioning.” (Edwards, *The Gospel According to Mark*, 159)

f. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil

1 John 3:8

Heb 2:14-15

Col 2:14-15

John 12:31; 16:11

- g. Excursus: Can a Christian be possessed?
- h. Discipleship

3) At the mercy of...

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us

rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.

4) Fear and faith

1 John 4:17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.