Date : 20 July 2025
Theme : Gospel of Mark
Topic : Exercising faith for healing and deliverance
Key passage : Mark 5
Key verse : *For Jesus had said to him...Come out of this man, you evil spirit Mark 5:8*

Introduction:
Every servant's first duty is to listen to what his Master says to receive instruction. The next is to learn in *Mark 5* how He deals with demons, diseases and death. Our Lord is showing us how to serve those who are demonised and the diseased. This means that, as servants of the Most High God, we can also exercise divine authority by faith to help people in similar situations.

Our key verse in *Mark 5:8* shows Jesus speaking authoritatively into a situation ...*Come out of the man, unclean spirit...* How do we speak words of faith to persons for healing or for casting out demons?

The key word is "said". What must we say or speak to bring healing and deliverance?

1. Casting out demons *(Mark 5:1-20)*

A. The Situation

The demonised man, under the control of evil spirits, was very strong, exerting supernatural powers, breaking chains and shackles, intimidating everyone, especially family members. None could solve his problem.

- What did the Lord <u>say</u> to the demons?
  "Come out of the man, unclean spirit"
  The command must be <u>spoken</u> forth and the demons addressed. This is because demons cannot read our minds: thinking, hating, wishing and even praying will not work to drive them out. Such command to drive demons away must be spoken audibly and authoritatively.

- Secondly, the Lord asked *"What is your name..?"*
  Identifying the demon's name is necessary when there are many spirits. The bigger or higher ranking ones tend to hide and may not manifest so quickly. We can order the stubborn ones to confess their identity. Sometimes they may still refuse to admit who they are. In which case we must ask the Holy Spirit to reveal it.

  This is why learning the habit of listening is so important. The answer usually comes quickly when we have been habitually hearing the Holy Spirit speak as we spend time in God's Word daily. In this regard, it is also advantageous to minister in twos because one can listen while the other keeps on engaging the demon.

B. Casting out demons explained

a) Who gives us this authority to use Jesus' Name?
We say ...*In Jesus name...* because Jesus has given every believer in His Name on earth, the authority to use that Name.

- This means we have the backing of Jesus, God the Son and His Name carries the highest authority on earth, in the heavens and under the earth.

  (The transfer of this type of authority in our world is recognised in legal terms as the Power of Attorney. LOA is given to a person, so as to act on behalf of the issuer in legal or other matters).

- This authority is authorised by the Lord Jesus for those who have a covenant relationship with Him (= where Jesus is Lord in this relationship). Demons can quickly identify whether Jesus is Lord in our lives or not. (In Acts, the 7 sons of Sceva used the phrase *In Jesus Name* as well. However they failed when they said *... in the Name of Jesus whom Paul preaches*. The demons turned around to attack them because they only had a second hand faith, but no direct knowledge of Jesus.)
  In the Lord's case, the demons recognised Him straight away because they had seen Him way back in eternity.

b) What language do we use?
Spirits understand any spoken language as well as angelic language; so speaking in 'tongues' can work too.

c) Why do demons manifest themselves?

- The manifest <u>presence</u> of Jesus torment them
  ...Jesus, Son of the Most High God...do not torment me... Mark 5:7
  That's why true worship exalting the Lord Jesus (and not mere songs) is important.

- The authoritative <u>preaching</u> of God's Word, accompanied by faith.
  In *Mark 1:22* Jesus taught in the synagogue with such authority.

  Result?
  Mark 1:23 A man in the synagogue with an evil spirit cried out.

  The bold teaching of Jesus agitated the demons so much that it came out of hiding and manifested itself. Demons are agitated by the unhindered Word of God. Once the demon makes itself known, you have to cast it out.

d) Faith versus unbelief
Ministering to the demonised must be done by faith. Unbelief undermines authority. Faith is increased by the hearing of God's Word. In this passage, our Lord dealt authoritatively with the aggressive spirit (who had tried to intimidate Him by talking loudly, and boasting of his large military contingent).

e) Blockages to deliverance
Unforgiveness is one common road block. Where the demon is not aggressive, we could interview the candidate and listen for a word of knowledge from the Holy Spirit.

f) Post-deliverance testimony
Those who have received deliverance must take steps to testify to family & friends...*Tell them what great things the Lord has done for you... Mark 5:19*
This reinforces your faith. Failure to do so could result in a reversal because demons may mistake your unspoken testimony as fear and unbelief. Unspoken testimonies indirectly attribute your healing to other healers such as doctors or even co-incidence, other than the Name of Jesus. In this way God's glory is usurped and given to another. Everyone who has experienced healing or deliverance should write a written testimony.
In *Mark 5:20* the past demoniac proclaimed in 10 cities what Jesus had done for him!

2. Healing the sick *(Mark 5:21-43)*

a. Healing the sick also requires 'speaking words of faith".
The first person healed in *Mark 5* was the woman with bleeding for 12 years. She spoke words of faith when she said...*If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well...Mark 5:28.* It was Jesus' cloak she was referring to *v28.* She had touched His garment *v27*.

b. In response the Lord asked *...Who touched my clothes?... Mark 5:30*
It was important for the woman to testify.
Then the Lord sealed the healing by saying the appropriate words of healing.

Daughter (a relationship word). For 12 years, she could not go into the house of the Lord because she was ceremonially unclean

...Your faith (in the Lord) *has made you well... Mark 5:34*

...Go in peace... because she had been suffering. Her sense of hopelessness was great. She had used up every cent and no doctor could solve her problem. She needed that peace of heart.

...Be healed of your affliction.... Healing for the affliction must be declared by servants of God.

c. Faith is necessary for healing to take place. But faith will be tested.
The synagogue ruler expressed <u>going out faith</u>, when he said *...Come and lay Your hand on her that she might be healed... Mark 5:23.*
But someone came and said to *him ...your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?... Mark 5:35*
The Lord countered these words of unbelief by saying *...Do not be afraid, only believe...Mark 5:36*
The Lord was imparting <u>going on faith</u>.
Going out faith can be overturned by a desperate situation. So we must be alert to speak words of faith into a hopeless situation to effect healing through going on faith.

d. Be careful whom you choose to associate with in the healing ministry. People of unfaith will hinder the work. The Lord was surrounded by people of unbelief. So He choose only people of faith to be present. *Mark 5:40(b)*

First, He put all who had laughed at Him, outside *Mark 5:40(a)*
Secondly He took her hand.
Thirdly He said *...Little girl, I say to you, arise... Mark 5:41*

Therefore healing must be spoken.
In this case, the Lord was raising the dead.
So a command had to be spoken audibly.
It was spoken in faith and in an atmosphere of faith.
Without faith, it will not work.

3. What should we do to serve as Jesus served?

- Change the way we see life situations. ☐
  See the sick and demonised as opportunities to serve along side the Holy Spirit.

- Change our habits. ☐
  Adopt the habit of carrying out our role as servants by speaking words of faith for the sick and demonised.
  If you are doing it for the first time in dealing with demons, always get another believer with you, preferably one who has done deliverance.

- When nothing 'seems' to happen, remember to activate going on faith.
  Go back to *Mark 5* to see how Jesus did it and follow Him.
  Keep believing. ☐

- Healing is the work of the Holy Spirit.
  But the word of faith must be spoken by us as followers of Jesus. ☐