

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: Jesus Demonstrates He is in Control, Mark 4:35 – 5:42

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INTRODUCTION: In this chapter, Jesus' ministry was still new and he was still training his disciples. Today, we are going to look at the calming of the storm, the casting out of demons and the resurrection of a dead girl. There are three facts I want you to get from this message:

1. Jesus had complete control over the natural world.
2. Jesus had complete control over the supernatural world.
3. Jesus had control over the point at which the natural and the supernatural intersect: death

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:35-41 ³⁵ *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."* ³⁶ *Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.* ³⁷ *A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.* ³⁸ *Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"*

³⁹ *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

⁴⁰ *He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"*

⁴¹ *They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

This scripture has been read many times as a standalone sermon, but today I am going to point out a few things and move on.

First, What I want you to see in this story is: **JESUS HAD COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE NATURAL WORLD.**

Jesus knew the need of the disciples was to trust him with their fears. He did not calm the storm until they woke him.

- The emotions here are fear followed by being terrified.

In the School of Jesus, the first thing they learned was Jesus had control over Nature. Jesus knew they needed to learn this principle before he taught them more things. Jesus was a rabbi and rabbis have followers. Rabbis taught lessons to their followers so they would grow strong in their faith and someday be rabbis themselves.

Now go to Chapter 5.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:2-13 ² *When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.*

⁶ *When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”*

⁹ *Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”*

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ *A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.*

Not only did he have control over the natural, but

Second, JESUS HAD CONTROL OVER THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD.

There is no record the disciples were afraid like they were in the storm just a while earlier. They saw what Jesus did with the storm so they probably knew what he could do with those demons.

- The emotions here are rage followed by calmness and amazement by all except for the upset pig farmers.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:21-24 ²¹ *When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.* ²² *Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet.* ²³ *He pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.”* ²⁴ *So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him.*

Now the scripture tells us a wonderful story of a woman Jesus healed while on the way to raise a girl from the dead. This story is a message for another time – maybe next week!

SCRIPTURE: Mark 5:35-42 ³⁵ *While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”*

³⁶ *Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”*

³⁷ *He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.* ³⁸ *When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.* ³⁹ *He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”* ⁴⁰ *But they laughed at him.*

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ *He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get*

up!”). ⁴² *Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.*

Jesus had control over the natural world; Jesus had control over the supernatural world, and

Third, JESUS HAD CONTROL OVER THE POINT AT WHICH THE NATURAL WORLD AND THE SUPERNATURAL WORLD INTERSECT: DEATH.

We live in this natural world until we take our last breath and our heart stops beating; then we enter the supernatural world. We call it supernatural because it's unknown to us and we have no control over it; the supernatural world of angels, demons, heaven and hell. Right now we cannot see it and we only know what the Bible lets us know about it. When we inhale our last breath, we are here and then we are gone. We have control of many things in this world, but at some point, we are no longer in control.

And here Jesus demonstrated his control over death.

And here are the emotions: pleading, crying, wailing loudly, laughing at Jesus; then astonishment!

Look at the progression of teaching: Jesus showed his disciples what he could do with a storm, with demons, and then with death.

APPLICATION: Now, if Jesus had power over the natural, the supernatural, and death; which is the point at which the natural and the supernatural intersect – **do you agree with me – he has power over everything?**

Last Wednesday night, I gave everyone a two question survey. The first question I asked was, “What topics in the Bible would people like to learn more about?” People answered the question, kind of like I thought they would.

The second question was: “what do you feel is in the minds of most people your age?” The answers to this question varied; however, there was a recurring theme – **FEAR**. People may not have used the word “fear”; however, fear was certainly the

theme. People are afraid of the way the **economy** is going, people have fear about the **election**, people are afraid about their **health**, people are afraid **Medicare** will not cover their **medical needs**, fear of the **future**, fear of **death**, those who are **not yet retired are afraid they may not be able to retire**.

On a national scale, it does seem **fear is permeating everything**. **Right now in this circus of an election year**, there is a lot of **fear-mongering**. Someone wrote an article about how Donald Trump is capitalizing on fear, but the article must have been written by someone who's not listened to the other candidates. Both Democrats and Republicans seem to be capitalizing on fear. Really, none of them come across to me as really optimistic. To be fair, it does not seem Governor Kasich of Ohio is capitalizing on fear, but the others are. And for the first time in my life, I see elected officials who are **afraid of voters**.

On top of this, we've got spontaneous, **unpredicted terrorism** happening at **random places around the world**. "Where will it happen next," we wonder? We do not know. North Korea is threatening Asia, and ISIS is threatening the world!

ILLUSTRATION: I was born in 1965. One of my earliest memories is sitting in my dad's lap watching the astronauts on TV. I remember being in the playground at Union Elementary School in Gallatin, looking up at the moon with my friends and saying, "American astronauts are there." My youngest years centered around believing Americans can do anything, and Americans can right any wrong. I knew there was a **problem in Vietnam**, but I didn't understand it. I knew there was a problem with something called **Watergate**, but I didn't understand it. **I knew eventually things would work out, and America would be on top no matter what**.

We've had times of fear before in this nation, but I don't think we had **such national fear in my lifetime**. The most recent fear which comes close to the **national fear** we have today is the **fear of nuclear attack in the 1950's**. How many of you remember that? How many of you remember the films about building a fallout shelter and taking adequate precautions?

Somewhere in the mix, it became evident if the Soviets nuked us, we would nuke them, and there would be **mutual assured destruction**. And with this scenario came the disbelief that anyone would fire the first missile.

But today, we are living in a different situation. **We have the fear of random violence on many levels.**

God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah and told the people of the tribe of Benjamin to prepare for destruction. Jeremiah told the people of the Lord's grievances against them.

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 6:13 *From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; Prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.*

¹⁴ *They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious.*

'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace.

¹⁵ *Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush.*

So God's words to the people were: they are greedy, they gloss over serious problems, and no one blushes anymore. **Folks, I think we are there.**

(1) People are voting for personal gain rather than what's good for the country.

(2) I'm baffled when our elected officials just gloss over serious problems, and everyone applauds.

(3) People do whatever they want, claiming their right to do it, regardless of whether something is sinful.

CONCLUSION: No wonder a simple survey yielded that people today are afraid. No doubt the world is changing at a pace we are not comfortable with.

What does all this have to do with the sermon today – here it is:

In the past, as Americans, we prayed and at the same time, we relied a lot on our institutions. The Builder Generation, those born between 1901 and 1925, are the ones who are known for building and funding our great institutions...massive health care systems, large companies, laws that protected workers, Social Security. They thought in terms of "What can we do for the collective whole?" instead of "What can I do for me?" With us today are a few of the Builder Generation.

What we are seeing today is the breaking apart of these institutions. Successive generations have not been as unselfish as the Builders. As a society, we've prayed and believed our institutions would get us through.

Today we do not have the security we once had. We have extreme points of view in government which cause polarization. We are not as self-reliant as we once were. We are not as powerful as we once were. **There is more uncertainty than ever before.**

Listen to me: we can no longer rely on our institutions. It's no longer an assumption that successive generations will be better off than their parents. You may think this as a terrible, pessimistic thing to say, but there is an optimistic flip side. **Are you listening? I REALLY WANT EVERYONE ON THE EDGE OF YOUR CHAIRS: TODAY WE'VE GOT TO RELY ON JESUS MORE THAN WE HAVE IN THE PAST.** We can no longer rely on our institutions.

- Those disciples on the boat – nature overtook them and they had to rely on Jesus.
- The man possessed by a Legion of demons – no one but Jesus had control over the supernatural.
- Jarius' daughter – no one had control over death but Jesus.

The natural, the supernatural, and death – there are no other categories than those. Everything can fit into these three categories!

It's time we took our fears and turned them into prayers.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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