

Mark 4:2-9; 33-41. *Soils and Spoils*. Mark teaches the reader that the Christ taught differently — in “parables.” Using the story, the narrative of the farmer and the different soils, Mark shows Jesus the Christ taught most often with oblique narratives, not bullet-pointed policy/theological directives.

Then He explained why to the 12 and the others who stayed around — to share Truth via truth. After all, people often see without perceiving, and hear without understanding. He made it clear to them however that parables would not remain obscure to them; He would explain, everything, explicitly.

Later that evening, Jesus said let’s go to the other side. A small navy went, and a furious squall came, waves were breaking over the gunwales, nearly swamping the boat. Jesus, of course, was sleeping, on a cushion, in the back of the boat. The disciples weren’t impressed — Professor (not Rabbi), don’t you care if we die?

Jesus was irritated, needless to say from being interrupted from a nice nap, and got up. Rebuking the wind and waves out loud, He said, *Shut up; be still!* Interestingly, the wind knew Who was boss, and it became completely calm. *By the way, disciples: Why are you so chicken? Do you still have no trust?* (πίστιν, pis-tin; persuaded, confidence, trust, fidelity, 4102)

This really freaked them out and they asked each other — *Just who is this dude? Even the waves & wind obey Him!*

- Q Why did the Christ teach often through “parables?” What value did/do they have over theological treatises? Who understands “parables?” What condition is critical to understand?
- Q Given the parable of the soils, to what extent should we focus our resources on sowing seed in “good ground” where the harvest is guaranteed?
- Q Truth of 4:26-29? [nowhere else in the gospels, btw]
- Q What was the purpose of the Christ’s question in verse 40?
- Q Why were they terrified instead of pleasantly amazed?

MARK 4:2-9; 33-41

²He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³"Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."
⁹Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

³³With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"
³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 5:1-20. *Legion Speak*. On the gentile side of the lake (east), Jesus had a nut case come to meet Him. Tragically, he had been living in the tombs—and, even when chained, he was able to break them. No one was able to subdue him. His days and nights were spent screaming and cutting himself.

Upon encountering Yeshua, prostrated himself. Yeshua commanded—*Come out of this man—you evil spirit!* The man then shouted *What do you want with me, Yeshua, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God you won't also torture me!* Jesus retorted—*What is your name?* Legion, he replied—we are many. The man begged Yeshua again, and again, not to send them out of the area.

Meanwhile a bunch of pigs became Legion's desired new home. After Yeshua gave Legion permission, they left the man and entered the pigs—about 2,000 of them then met their death in the lake by drowning. The pig farmers were freaked and told everyone, townfolk and countryfolk alike.

When they came to see Yeshua, they saw the man, all calm, cool and collected, who had once been controlled by Legion. After hearing what happened, they asked Yeshua to get out of Dodge. He did, but the man wanted to go with Him—He said no, go home and tell your family just how much the Lord has done for you, how He has had mercy on you. All of Decapolis, the 10 cities, heard his story, about how much Yeshua had done for him. They were amazed!

- Q Why did Mark record the story of Legion?
- Q Why didn't Legion just jump into the pigs immediately?
- Q Who were the first missionaries to the gentiles (assuming the chronology of this incident predates the woman at the well)?
- Q Why didn't Jesus tell this man to keep this miracle to himself?

MARK 5:1-20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.

²When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil [unclean] spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. ⁴For 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. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" ⁸For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

⁹Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

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

¹¹A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.

¹²The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³He gave them permission, and the evil 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.

¹⁴Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis [area of 10 cities] how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.



THE FIRST MISSIONARIES IN SCRIPTURE: PIG FARMERS? (MARK 5:14)

Mark 5:25-34. *No Power Limits*. Crowds were a mixed blessing for the Christ. People crowded in, eager to hear, to be heard, to be healed. One such person was an unclean woman who had no been able to go to temple for at least 12 years (see Leviticus 15:25-33). She came up behind Jesus thinking, *if I just touch His clothes, [see Matt 12:20, HCSB] I'll be healed*. She did and immediately her bleeding problem stopped—she knew she was free from her suffering.

And so did Jesus—the power had gone out from Him; so He turned around and asked, *Who touched my clothes?*

The disciples were incredulous—all these people crowding around and You can ask *Who touched Me?* He was not impressed with their incredulity and kept looking around. The woman freaked, came, fell at His feet and with a trembling voice ‘fessed up. Jesus gave her the greatest compliment—calling her “daughter,” then He said your trust healed/saved [σέσωκέν, ses-ko-sen, 4982] you; be reconciled, be freed from your suffering.

Q Why did she touch His clothing? Why did her trust save/heal her?

Q Why did Jesus the Christ not know who touched His clothing [ἱματίων, long flowing outer garment, 2440]?

MARK 5:25-34

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. ²⁵And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. ²⁶She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. ²⁷When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." ²⁹Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

³⁰At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

³¹"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

³²But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it.

³³Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43. Another Daughter.
Getting away from the Decapolis crowd, Jesus encountered another large crowd on the other side of Galilee. Jairus, a synagogue leader, came seeking Jesus, pleading from a prostrated position—*My little daughter is dying. Please come and put Your hands on her so she will be healed and live.* Jesus, of course, went with him.

[The incident with the woman
& His garment happened next.]

Apparently, it was too late. Some men from Jairus' household came and announced, *Your daughter is dead; don't bother the Professor [not Rabbi] anymore.* Jesus, of course, was not intimidated—He told Jarius, *Don't be afraid—just believe.*

Only Peter, James & John were permitted to accompany Jesus to Jarius' house. The mourners were already shrieking, crying ever so loudly. *Why all the fuss?* Jesus asked. *The child is not dead, but asleep.* They mocked Jesus by laughing [they weren't the sharpest knife in the drawer].

Shooing the all of the others all out of her room, Jesus took only Jarius & Mrs. Jarius, Peter, James & John into the room. Jesus simply took her by the hand and commanded *Talitha koum!* Which is Aramaic for *Little girl, I say to you, get up!* Immediately the girl stood up and walked around. This walking, breathing 12 year old completely astonished [ἐκστάσει; displaced mind, ecstasy, 1611] them all. But, Jesus the Christ strictly ordered them not to let anyone know about what happened. He also told them to give the little girl something to eat.

- Q How do you suppose Jarius heard about Jesus the Christ? Why did he believe, or did he, that Jesus could heal his daughter?
- Q Why were only the parents & James/John/Peter allowed to witness what the Christ was about to do?
- Q Why did Jesus the Christ touch the 12 year old daughter of Jarius?
- Q Why did the Christ tell them to keep this resurrection on the down low? Why food?

MARK 5:21-24, 35-43

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. ²²Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet ²³and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter [θυγάτριόν, little (young) daughter, 2365] is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴So Jesus went with him.

³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?"

³⁶Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰But 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. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "*Talitha koum!*" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴²Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.