

LET US PASS OVER UNTO THE OTHER SIDE

Mk 4: 35 – 5:43.

Introduction:

At the beginning of Chapter 4 of the book of Mark, the Bible says: “And he began to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered to unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. And he taught them many things by parables and said unto them in his doctrines.”

I am not condemning staying in the church and feeling “cool” about the service and having a good time in the presence of the Lord; but as long as we do that the devil too is very “cool” taking care of all the people he is oppressing at the other side.

Jesus sat down by the sea side and a multitude gathered to him and he entered into a ship and he began to teach them. After a long sermon, he decided that it was important to do exactly what God had commissioned him to do. In Isaiah 61: 1-3, Jesus listed the candidates that needed His intervention. They were not necessarily in the church. They were out there and they were under the oppression of the devil. When we get to Chapter 5, we shall see them anxiously waiting for deliverance.

However, before getting to the other side, let us see some of the things that happened:

1. There was the need to send the multitude away (Mk 4:35): **Who are the multitude?** They were they people who were ready to be there just listening to the teachings; but they would never respond to the teachings. They were the spectators – they were very good in comparing notes – they know how one teacher is better than another – but they will not do what the message says. They flow with the crowd. Anywhere it is “happening” that is where they can be found. Jesus had to send them away before he told those who really wanted to be part of the real business to prepare to go to the other side. In this church, we have had the lessons “The Way of the Master”. We have practised all the various “arts” of evangelism and the “science” of it (if you like). But there is the urgent need to go out there and do the work the Lord has committed into our hands. I am afraid; it is not everyone that will take part. The multitude will go away. Do you belong to the multitude or are you prepared to go to the other side? Well, time will tell.

2. As soon as they began to go to “the other side” the one who has taken the people captives at the other side began to be angry and furious. Hence, there arose a great storm of wind and, the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full (Mk 4:37). Can I invite you to note that when Jesus was teaching for the whole period at the sea side, the wind was calm? As long as we stay in the church playing church and enjoying ourselves, the devil is happy and he is not going to be bothered because we are not encroaching on his territory. He wants to continue to keep the people bound and that is all he cares about. Note that the “storm of wind” would come in so many ways. That is when you may be sick or attacked, that is when the devil might even bring you to a level of condemnation or bring a hindrance along your way.

3. Jesus is there to rebuke the wind as long as we call upon him and obey his command to go to the other side. So, every storm in your life the Lord will rebuke today and gives you rest in the name of Jesus.

4. Faith is all we need to believe the word of the Lord and to step out to do his will.

5. In Mark 5:1-2, the Bible says “And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs, a man with an unclean spirit. If you cast your mind back to Isaiah 61: 1-3; there are three categories of people there and those three categories were waiting; bound at the other side:
 - (i) **to proclaim liberty to those to the captives: Mk 5: 2-20.** The man had been held captive for so many years by so many demons. He was under intensive torment of the devil; but Jesus set him free. He became a publisher of the “Way of the Master”.

 - (ii) **to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God: Mk 5: 25-34.** This poor woman had been held bound for so many years under the oppression of the enemy. She had spent all she had going from one doctor to another. For her that year became the acceptable year of the Lord for her and that day the Lord demonstrated His vengeance upon the enemy by setting her free. She left whole and was free from her plague.

 - (iii) **to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion: Mk 5:22-24;35-43.** Remember that Jairus was a ruler of the synagogue. His daughter was sick and had died and the people were

mourning. Unfortunately, they were even mourning in Zion. The devil also extends his ugly hands to the lives of people in the church as well who have a sense of religion; but have nothing to do with God. God comforted the people in the home of Jairus and he also appointed to them by bringing the girl back to life.

Conclusion:

Those are the people at the other side. Those are the people that Jesus was sent to free from the oppression of the devil and those are the people that need us on the other side. “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” – 1 John 3: 8b.