

Title: HELP FOR THE HELPLESS, MARK 5
(Chatham, NJ; 06/28/15) [Pt – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: The miracles that Jesus performs in Mark 5 demonstrate that he has provided hope for those who feel helpless in the face of evil, anxiety, and distress.

Purpose: To provide a demonstration of Jesus' power to give people hope, and to connect such power and hope with the resurrection that offers us the victory over death.

Introduction:

1. In Hebrews 6:11 the author urges his audience to "have the full assurance of hope."
2. Numerous things pressure us to feel helpless and even hopeless: social pressure and the presence of unmitigated, dark evil.
3. Do we have hope in dealing with shootings, corrupt politicians, and persecutions?
4. We have an answer in the passage before us: Mark 5.
5. Jesus confronts numerous situations which demonstrate humanity's powerlessness.

I. The Demonic

A. Helplessness

1. A man possessed by a supernatural evil power
2. He lived in the tombs and hills, and he hurt himself with stones
3. The neighbors feared but managed to avoid him: no one could subdue him
4. What was his life? Are there many more pitiful and helpless situations?

B. Enter Jesus

1. The demons plead for mercy: finally evil had met its match
2. We find it hard to feel any compassion for these evil brutes: these are the thugs, intimidators, and sadists of the spiritual world
3. Jesus' compassion allows them a brief reprieve, but we realize their days are numbered

C. Helplessness turns to hope

1. The man is set free: dressed and in his right mind
2. Why would the locals want Jesus to leave (17)?
3. The healed man wanted to accompany Jesus. Why not?
4. Now, life is ahead of him: marriage, a job, a family, etc.
5. No wonder he was willing to talk about it, 20.

II. Woman In Bondage

A. Helplessness against failing health

1. A bleeding disorder, doctor's failures, and now the money is gone
2. Her options had run out
3. This went on for twelve years

B. Enter Jesus

1. She heard the stories

2. Might there be one last hope?
3. She only wants a small opportunity
4. She harbors no expectation that Jesus might pay attention to her
5. She touches his garment, is healed, and disrupts the entire company
6. Yet her faith makes her well

III. Jairus: Hope Interrupted (Note: he is a synagogue ruler)

- A. Child in distress
 1. He comes looking for help
 2. Jesus is sidetracked along the way: did Jairus' anxiety build?
 3. He receives word of his daughter's death, 35
 4. Imagine the overwhelming grief

- B. Jesus: a word of hope amid the agony
 1. He consoles Jairus
 2. He confounds the mourners
 3. He confronts death

Conclusions:

1. Jesus turns hopeless situations around.
2. People who felt helpless now have hope.
3. Against the forces of evil – the demons fear him
4. Against despair – sickness can end
5. Against grief – Jairus receives back his daughter
6. Against death – her healing (she's only sleeping) as well as his own resurrection
7. Hebrews 2:14-15, Jesus delivered us from the fear of death.
8. Since Christ, death is not the worst thing that can happen to us; the worst is that we don't have Christ to give us hope.

Children's Sermon:

- Bring some medicine
- Ask the children what their parents do when they get sick
- Give them medicine, take them to the doctor, or console them
- What would you think if I told you about a man who could heal people right away with only a touch?
- That man was Jesus.
- He could heal our diseases as well as our souls.