

WHY THE WIND IS BLOWING SO STRONG

Text: Mark 4:35-5:20

In every gospel where these two events occur (the great storm on Galilee and the Gadarene maniac) they occur right next to each other; which tells me they belong together. When Jesus told his disciples to get into the ship so they could pass over to the other side, he knew where and why he was headed. He knew this man was waiting on the other side of Galilee. He knew his condition and that he would deliver him from demon possession. He knew this man was the key to shedding light in a region dominated by darkness. Jesus was about to invade and assault the devil's territory, but getting there was difficult.

The great storm of wind that came down on Galilee was not a coincidence, nor was it just a natural storm. The storm was caused by the devil in an attempt to stop the Lord from getting to Gadara. The reason I know this is because Jesus had to rebuke the wind for it to stop. The word "rebuke" means an expression of strong disapproval, sharp criticism, or stern correction aimed at stopping wrong behavior.

Example of Satan being active in the wind:

- **Job 1:12** And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. **Job 1:18-19** While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Satan is called the prince of the power of the air in Ephesians 2:2

The great storm of wind coming down on the sea suddenly was a satanic attack because spiritual warfare always ramps up strong before a breakthrough or a victory! If you will look back over your Christian life you will see a pattern that before the greatest triumphs came, the greatest opposition mounted. I want to both inform and encourage you with this message "Why the wind is blowing so strong". When the enemy is opposing you:

- **Things that used to be easy to do are now hard** – The wind blew against the ship stopping its progress. When the enemy is working against you, everyday things that

used to be easy to do become hard. The enemy disrupts and distracts causing you frustration.

- **Doubt and discouragement** – A sudden heavy loss of hope, deep pessimism about faith, thoughts that you are useless and what you do doesn't matter, questioning your salvation to push you into anxiety
- **Recurring temptations** – You are suddenly tempted with sins that haven't been a bother for you in a long time. Destructive images are recalled or the memories of sins you committed are fresh in your memory. Sometimes the enemy infiltrates your dreams to bother and upset you.
- **Prayer fatigue** – Experiencing sudden, overwhelming mental distractions, or a severe lack of motivation when trying to pray or read scripture.

The wind manipulated the water into becoming waves meant to destroy them. Mark 4:37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

- **Sudden Relational Strife** - Unusually severe conflicts, disunity, or bitterness erupting within marriages, families, or church members that are otherwise healthy.

Christ is mightier than the enemy: Mark 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Here's why the devil didn't want Jesus to make it to Gadara:

- **A sinner being set free** – The demon-possessed man was completely dominated with thousands of devils. He was a menace to society and a terror to that region. The community tried to bind this man with fetters and chains to no avail, and he lived among the tombs crying and cutting himself! But one encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ and he was delivered from the demons, put back in his right mind, clothed and sent back to his family and friends.
- **A stronghold broken up** – The enemy had this region on lockdown because the demons asked Jesus not to send them out of the country. Why? Because they liked it there, demons lurk and wreak havoc wherever there is darkness. Decapolis was a region of 10 Hellenistic pagan cities. Mary Magdalene was from Magdala which was in Decapolis and Jesus cast seven devils out of her. Jesus chose the person in the worst condition possible to put on display to the community who he was and what he was able to do. **Mark 5:19-20** Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

A stronghold is a deeply ingrained mindset, habit, or belief system that opposes God's truth and holds a person in spiritual bondage.

Common Mental and Emotional Strongholds

- **Fear and Anxiety:** A debilitating sense of dread or distrust that God will care for you.
- **Pride:** Relying on human strength, self-sufficiency, or status rather than surrendering to God.
- **Unforgiveness and Bitterness:** Holding onto past hurts, anger, or resentment toward others.
- **Depression and Despair:** A heavy, lingering state of sadness that convinces you life is hopeless.
- **Confusion:** Double-mindedness, restlessness, and an inability to perceive truth.
- **The results of his testimony - Mark 7:31-32** And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. **Mark 7:35-37** And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; And were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.