



# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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## DAILY DEVOTION

### THE JOURNEY OF FAITH: PART 1.

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#### Mark 5:1 NKJ

“Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.”

There is much we don't know.

Have you ever been on a journey and wondered if you would ever make it to your destination? Life can be like that even for Christ followers.

When Mark records the story of the disciples' journey across the lake or Sea of Galilee, his words are pregnant with meaning: “So they arrived at the other side of the lake....” Mark 5:1a (NLT).

It was a journey of faith and a journey they would never forget!

If we look back at Mark 4 we will really appreciate the journey they were on. Jesus had just wrapped up a lengthy teaching on the lakeshore about the Kingdom of God. As the evening approached, He told His disciples, “Let's cross to the other side of the lake.” Mark 4:35 (NLT).

Exhausted from a full day of teaching, Jesus falls fast asleep in the back of the boat. Mark tells us what happens next in verse 37 “But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.”

Fearful for their lives and overwhelmed with panic, the disciples wake up Jesus, shouting to Him with a question: “Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?” (Vs. 38b). You can almost feel their panic! Maybe you've been there. Maybe God has given you a word about what you should do, and about the time you start out doing it, you find yourself in a storm you never anticipated.

Jesus never told them they would encounter a storm on their journey. What He did say is that they were going to cross the lake to the other side. Finding themselves in their present situation, it didn't seem to the disciples like they would ever make it alive!

Fierce storms can often cause us to wonder if God even cares. When Jesus woke up, He rebuked the wind and the waves, and suddenly the wind stopped, and there was great calm. Then He looked at the disciples and asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (Vs. 39).

The disciples, like us, had underestimated Jesus' power and concern. Jesus would use this encounter in their journey to prepare them for their destination. They had to know that He had authority over the natural world for what they were about to experience when they arrived on the other side of the lake. As soon as they landed from their boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit rushes out of the cemetery to confront them. He was a crazed man who could not even be restrained with chains! Mark said, “No one was strong enough to subdue him.” Mark 5:4 (NLT). He wandered about the burial caves and in the hills “howling and cutting himself with sharp stones.” (Vs. 5). This was the first of a number of spiritual encounters the disciples would witness when they arrived at their destination. Not only would they

witness Jesus' authority over the natural world, but they would see His power over the supernatural world as well. Their journey prepared them for their destination. They saw Jesus deliver the demonized man, heal a diseased woman, and raise a dead girl to life! Wow! Talk about an exciting adventure!

What about your journey in life? Whatever circumstances you are facing this year may be the very means God is using to prepare you for your destination, to shape your character for the God plan and purpose for your life.

There's purpose in every problem. Your pain has a purpose. You may have more stormy weather than calm seas. Don't panic. Do it with your faith in Jesus! Press into your relationship with Jesus and trust Him to bring you through. Your journey is preparing you for glorious destination.

### **Prayer:**

With my faith in Jesus, no matter the storm this year, I will get to my destination gloriously in Jesus name.