

## The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S4E19

### Casting Out Demons - (Matthew 12:22-26)

**Description – Join us as today we’re examining the encounter of Jesus and a demon possessed man who was both blind and mute in Matthew 12, but there’s more to this story than just a miraculous healing.**

Welcome back! A few gifts to start off this episode, brought to you by Glenbrook Chick-Fil-A.

A Harmony of the Gospels (CSB)

<https://www.amazon.com/CSB-Harmony-Gospels-Steven-Cox/dp/1087768462/>

A great resource to be a companion for Gospel Parallels (Morton Throckmorton)

Remember, the Pharisees, Sadducees and religious leaders have investigated Jesus, but now they’ve come back to investigate and interrogate about the messianic miracles that Jesus is performing.

#### **Mark 5:1-13**

They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes. <sup>2</sup> As soon as he got out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came out of the tombs and met him. <sup>3</sup> He lived in the tombs, and no one was able to restrain him anymore—not even with a chain— <sup>4</sup> because he often had been bound with shackles and chains, but had torn the chains apart and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to subdue him. <sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains, he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and knelt down before him. <sup>7</sup> And he cried out with a loud voice, “What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don’t torment me!” <sup>8</sup> For he had told him, “Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!” <sup>9</sup> “What is your name?” he asked him. “My name is Legion,” he answered him, “because we are many.” <sup>10</sup> And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. <sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was there, feeding on the hillside. <sup>12</sup> The demons begged him, “Send us to the pigs, so that we may enter them.” <sup>13</sup> So he gave them permission, and the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs. The herd of about two thousand rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned there.

So this guy in Mark 5 can both see, hear and talk. Jesus uses the “Pharisaical” method of casting out demons. A 3 Step protocol, according to Arnold Fructenbaum.

1. You have to establish communication with the demon.
2. Once you know the person can talk, you ask the name of the demon.
3. You use the name and you call the demon out by it’s identity.

So in this encounter in Mark 5, notice what the demon says about Jesus’s identity.

**Mark 5:7**

<sup>7</sup> And he cried out with a loud voice, "What do you have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you before God, don't torment me!"

Notice up to this point in the Ministry of Jesus that neither the religious leaders, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, not even his own disciples or his family have identified Jesus in this way. Only a spiritual demonic being identifies Jesus correctly.

Now jump to Matthew 12

And by the way, this is the turning point in Jesus's ministry, Matthew 12 & 13. Before this Jesus teaches and addresses the crowds and the masses, along with the religious leaders. But after this encounter, Jesus reserves his teaching just for the disciples.

**Matthew 12:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and unable to speak was brought to him. He healed him, so that the man could both speak and see. <sup>23</sup> All the crowds were astounded and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

So the Pharisees have brought this man to Jesus (v.22) to test Jesus. But the test backfires massively. The crowds begin to wonder if this truly could be the Son of David, the Messiah. Look at the Pharisees & religious leaders response:

**Matthew 22:24**

<sup>24</sup> When the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons."

They say he's demon possessed, and drives out demons by the power of other demons. Because at this point they've only got one of two choices. They can acknowledge that only God could do the miracle they'd just witnessed, or they can lie and attribute the miracle to the power of demons and the demonic. But look at how Jesus responds to them:

**Matthew 22:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> Knowing their thoughts, he told them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is headed for destruction, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?"

Next week we'll ask and hopefully answer the question, can a believer today commit the unpardonable sin?