

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

The Lord Has Control Over the Scary Things in Life

Matthew 8:23-9:8

1 There's the story of Charles Blondin who became famous in the summer of 1859 by walking across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. He walked 160 feet above the falls several times between Canada and the United States as huge crowds looked on in amazement.

On July 15th, he returned from Canada pushing a wheelbarrow while blindfolded. When he reached the United States, he asked the question, "Do you believe I can carry a person across in this wheelbarrow?" Everyone shouted, "Yes!"

Then he posed the question, "Who will get in?"

Nobody volunteered! ¹

This life is full of scary times. The Lord's disciples experienced scary times even when the Lord was with them.

When you are in a scary situation, realize that when the Lord is present in your life, you don't need to fear!

¹ [Charles Blondin Story - Faith on a Tightrope \(creativebiblestudy.com\)](http://creativebiblestudy.com)

In Matthew, chapter 8, verse 23 through chapter 9, verse 8, we can see how the Lord took control. ²

I. The Lord Has Control Over the Natural –

8:23-27

The Lord has control over the natural elements of life.

3

Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” ² ₄

What was the crisis?

² Matthew 8:23-27.

In verses 24 and 25, there was a “furious” storm. Most of these men, the disciples, were seasoned fishermen. Yet, they felt helpless. ⁵

In verse 25, **faith was expressed**. They were desperate, realizing that they might drown. Even though they were terrified, they at least believed Lord Jesus could do more than they could do. ⁶

How did the Lord take control? Verse 26 tells us. ⁷ He strengthened their faith by standing, rebuking them and then, taking charge. ⁸ With a word, He calmed the sea and stopped the storm! ⁹

What does this mean to you? Nature shouldn't stop you from serving the Lord! ¹⁰

What would stop you from attending the Lord's Day worship?

Danger? The snow is so deep it would be dangerous to drive in it. That's understandable! ¹¹

Inconvenience? When it snows, I'll have to bundle up. I'll have to spend twenty minutes shoveling the stuff. I'll have to heat up the car and travel very slowly with foggy windows. It's just not worth the trouble!

Maybe it's too much rain. It's too hot. There's no transportation.

The weather can be scary. But don't let the weather stop you from following the Lord's will! ¹²

There's another scary thing.

II. The Lord Has Control Over the Supernatural – 8:28-34

The Lord has control over the supernatural! ¹³

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” ³ ¹⁴

Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And

³ Matthew 8:28-29.

when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. ⁴ ₁₅

What was the crisis? ₁₆

In verse 28, it says that the Lord was confronted by two demon possessed men. In Mark, chapter 5, it says that there was only one. ₁₇

They would continually cry out and cut themselves. ⁵
₁₈ They lived in a cemetery. ₁₉ They were naked and mentally deranged. ⁶ ₂₀ They were strong and would attack anyone they saw; very violently! ⁷ People would detour around their location to stay out of danger. ₂₁

⁴ Matthew 8:30-34.

⁵ Mark 5:5 - Night and day among the tombs and in the hills, he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ Mark 5:15 - When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

⁷ Mark 5:3-4 - This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. – And - Matthew 8:28 - They were so violent that no one could pass that way.

In verses 29 through 31, **faith was expressed.**⁸ 22

What was the attitude of the demons?

They recognized who Jesus was and His authority over them. They knew they were destined for hell and begged not to be tortured ahead of time. 23

What was the attitude of the Gentiles (non-Jewish folks) in the city? 9

They were more concerned about their economy than these men who had been rescued from this horrible condition! 24

How did the Lord take control?¹⁰ 25 He commanded the demons to leave the men and indwell the herd of

⁸ Matthew 8: 29-32 - "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

⁹ Matthew 8:33-34 - Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

¹⁰ Matthew 8:30-32 - Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

pigs. They obeyed Him! ²⁶ There were two thousand pigs in the herd! ¹¹ ²⁷ All the pigs which were demon possessed jumped into the lake and were drowned! ²⁸

The rescued men immediately wanted to be disciples, but Jesus told them to be apostles! **As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.** Jesus did not let him, but said, **“Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you,** and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. **And all the people were amazed.** ¹² ²⁹

What does this mean to you? Demon possession happens when people fully surrender to Satan’s control! ³⁰ Stay away from any involvement in occult practices. The occult is real and scary! ³¹ Once possessed, you are miserable and helpless to do

He said to them, “Go!” So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water.

¹¹ Mark 5:13 - The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹² Mark 5:18-20. Disciples are students; apostles are messengers!

anything about it. ³² These men were grateful to be rescued! ¹³ ₃₃

Are you like the Gentiles here? More concerned about money and your possessions than you are about people? Or are you like the rescued men who wanted to be with Jesus? ₃₄

The final scary thing in this passage is . . .

¹³ Mark 5:18 - As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.

III. The Lord has Control Over the Moral

– 9:1-8

The Lord has control over the moral. ³⁵

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!” ¹⁴ ³⁶

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they

¹⁴ **Matthew 9:1-3.**

praised God, who had given such authority to men. ¹⁵

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What was the crisis here? ³⁸

This man was a hopeless paralytic. ¹⁶ ³⁹ There was no way to get him to Jesus through the crowd. ⁴⁰

But **faith was expressed.** ⁴¹ These friends believed Jesus could heal the paralytic and were willing to overcome any obstacle to get him to Jesus! ¹⁷ So, they climbed to the roof with their patient on a mat. Then, they chiseled a hole in the roof and lowered him down through the ceiling! ⁴²

¹⁵ Matthew 9:4-8.

¹⁶ Mark 2:2-3 - So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them.

¹⁷ Mark 2:4 - Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on.

How did the Lord take control? ⁴³

He first took control of the moral problem. ⁴⁴

Chapter 9, verse 2, When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, **“Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”**

The Jewish belief, at the time, was that sin caused illness. The greater the sin, the greater the illness. If he were a paraplegic, ¹⁸ supposedly he was a great sinner! If he had actually been a great sinner, this paralysis may have been partly psychosomatic. So, making this command in verse 2 and forgiving his sin, Jesus released him from the psychological barrier. ⁴⁵

He next took control of the physical problem. Lord Jesus said, **“Get up, take your mat and go home.”** And **the man got up and went home.** ¹⁹ ⁴⁶

¹⁸ All he could do was move his head.

¹⁹ Matthew 9: 6-8 - But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....” Then he said to the paralytic, **“Get up, take your mat and go home.”** And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this,

The crowd was filled with awe and impressed with the Lord's spiritual authority.²⁰ 47 But the Scribes believed Jesus was a mere man who was insulting God by claiming to do only what God was authorized to do – forgive sin! Verse 3, **At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"**. Mark, chapter 2, verse 7, emphasizes, **"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?""** 48

So, what does this mean to you? 49

Do you have a critical spirit like the Scribes? Do you jump to conclusions before you have all of the facts?

Being lost in a sinful life is scary. In Christ you can be forgiven! 50

they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

²⁰ Matthew 9: 6-8 - But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." And the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

What the Lord can do in the physical realm demonstrates what He can do in the moral realm!

If you are burdened with a dark past today, Jesus can take care of that. He can wash your life as white as snow!

What Lord Jesus did on the cross makes the forgiveness of your sins available to you. When you surrender your life to Jesus' lordship, you are letting Him call the shots in your life. When you are baptized, you are beginning your life of acceptance of what the Lord did for you on the cross – you are applying it to your own life! ⁵¹

Since no one is so righteous that he cannot be lost, no one is so sinful that he cannot be forgiven!

Take what Jesus did for you on the cross by surrendering to Him right now!

<http://biblelifemessages.org>