

THE DEMONIAK OF CAPERNAUM

Mark 1:21-28

Theme: Spiritual freedom

Episode 2 of 7

Part 1: THEY MET THE MASTER SERIES

(STORIES OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO MET JESUS)

CTTW SHORT DRAMA PROGRAMS W/QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CHRISTIAN RADIO DRAMA

“THE STORY WITHIN”

002



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Part 1: They Met the Master Series
Episode 2 of 7: The Demoniatic of
Capernaum
Christ to the World Ministries

DIRECTORIAL INFORMATION

CAST OF CHARACTERS: (note voice quality required)

- **Each voice should be recognizably different from any other character.**
- **Some characters appear in multiple episodes of this series. Use the same voice for the same character.**

Salmon: **A demoniac of Capernaum** (voice of a mature man)
John the Baptist: **Forerunner of Jesus** (voice of a mature man)
Jesus: **The promised Messiah** (voice of a mature man)
God: **Heavenly Father** (voice of a mature man)
Jason: **Salmon's friend** (voice of a mature man)
Voices: **For sound effects** (men, women, and children)

Notes to all readers:

- These are radio **dramas**. The actions and emotions are in the words. Remember that the listener will only hear these words once; speak distinctly with appropriate emotion; carefully observe all punctuation (i.e., pause at commas, stop at periods, intensify at exclamation points, and give special emphasis to words in **bold** type).
- Observe all **music** cues (bold/small print) throughout the script.
- Observe **sound effects** directions (bold print) throughout the script.
- Observe all **voice** instructions (bold print) throughout the script.
- When Scripture is used, the print is in *italics*, and it is the NIV (1984). Scripture references are given to aid the translators and should not be read as part of the script.

THE DEMONIAK OF CAPERNAUM

Scripture Reference: Mark 1:21-28

(Music: Theme music begins, then gradually fades to underscoring during comments by Program Host. Note to producer: Limit theme music not to exceed 12-14 seconds.)

Program Host

Welcome to “The Story Within.” Today’s drama tells us about the demoniak of Capernaum, a man who “Met the Master.” It is based on the gospel of Mark in the Bible. Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, began His earthly ministry at about age 30. John the Baptist baptized Him in the Jordan River. John recognized Jesus as the One promised by God through the prophets of old. When Jesus arose from the baptismal water, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. God the Father spoke from heaven, acknowledging Jesus as His Son in whom He was well pleased.

Following His baptism, Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days in the wilderness. John the Baptist was placed in prison for his faith, but Jesus continued His appointed ministry. He called the first of His 12 closest followers prior to His arrival in the town of Capernaum.

On the Sabbath, Jesus taught at the synagogue in Capernaum. While there, a man with an unclean spirit cried out to Jesus. Jesus rebuked the spirit, casting him from

the man. This amazed all who witnessed it. They spread the news of Jesus throughout the region. Listen now as Salmon, the name chosen for the demoniac of Capernaum, tells us his story.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Salmon – Storyteller)

Do you have any idea how it feels to have no control over yourself? To have another power dominate your life and direct your every movement . . . your every word? To know others look at you with revulsion and fear? To wonder if such misery will ever end?

That was my life. I lost all hope of returning to anything close to normal. I hated my existence but could do nothing about it. I hated the way I talked and the actions I took, because I knew they were not me. That was not who I was or who I wanted to be. Yet, I was powerless over the spirit that possessed my life.

Then I heard of the teacher and miracle worker Jesus. At first it was only rumblings of another traveling spiritual man. I thought little of it other than disgust at the idea of someone else controlled by or controlling the spiritual realm. When I heard that He was baptized by John the Baptist, I wondered why He associated with such a strange person. John the Baptist may not have been possessed by a spirit, but he certainly was an unusual man. With camel's hair clothing and a diet of locusts and wild honey, he received more than his fair share of attention.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

John the Baptist: (boldly) *“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near”* (Mt. 3:2).

INSERT: (Sound effects: Crowd murmurs, some in positive ways such as, “We must repent as John the Baptist says.” “Yes, he speaks the truth.” “Excuse me. Let me through. I need to be baptized.” “Could this be the Christ?” Others speak negatively, “Who does he think he is?” “Look at him. What kind of prophet looks like that?” “What right does he have to baptize others?)

John the Baptist: *After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit”* (Mark 1:7-8).

INSERT: (Sound effects: Crowd grows quieter, as Jesus makes His way to John. Whispers of “Who is this man?” “Why does John look at him like that?” “Oh, He just wants to be baptized too.” “Move out the way. Let Him through.” Water splashes as Jesus enters the river.)

John the Baptist: (reverently) Jesus, *“I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”* (Mt. 3:14).

Jesus: John, *“let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness”* (Mt. 3:15).

John the Baptist: Very well.

INSERT: (Sound effects: Water splashes as John baptizes Jesus. A low rumbling begins as the heavens open. A dove’s wings flap before the dove lands on Jesus. The crowd gasps in awe and says, “Is it a dove . . . a dove on the man just baptized?” “I think so.” “I have never seen a dove come from so far above.” “Can it be a sign?” “Has God’s Spirit come?” The rumbling increases.)

God: (deeply, with authority) *“You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased”* (Mark 1:11)

INSERT: (Sound effects: Crowd gasps and whispers, “The voice of God!” “God spoke to Him as a Son.” “Is that possible?” “What does it mean?”)

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Salmon continues his story)

I heard nothing more about Jesus until 40 days after His baptism. Later, I learned He spent that time in the wilderness, tempted by Satan. John the Baptist was arrested and put in prison for his faith, but that never slowed Jesus’ ministry in the least. Instead, after those 40 days, Jesus went into Galilee. Like John, Jesus preached repentance. However, Jesus added a message of good news.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INSERT: (Sound effects: A crowds gathers around Jesus.)

Jesus: *“The time has come. The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”* (Mark 1:15).

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Salmon continues his story)

Wherever Jesus went following His baptism and time in the wilderness, crowds gathered around Him. The numbers increased rapidly, as people longed to hear His words and witness His miracles.

How I wanted to go! How I wanted to hear His words and experience His healing power. How I desired the good news He preached. Yet, I wondered what good that would do. What good would anything do me? I believed I would never be released by the demon within.

Nevertheless, I continued to listen for word from the One who proclaimed good news. Some people said Jesus set the captives free. If anyone was captive, it was me. Yet, freedom seemed so elusive, so impossible in my life.

As Jesus traveled about Galilee, He began calling a few people as His disciples. Strangely, He did not call the political or religious elite. Instead, He reached out to ordinary men, fishermen such as Simon, Andrew, James, and John. If those closest to Him were common people, was it possible He could offer good news to me? Did I dare hope?

When Jesus entered Capernaum, I decided to see Him for myself. Although I had no idea what the spirit controlling me would do, I had to take that chance. Besides, what did I have to lose?

I went to the synagogue where Jesus taught on the Sabbath. Like everyone else, I was amazed at His words. Instead of borrowing from the authority of others, like most rabbis, Jesus taught with His own authority.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INTERMISSION

Program Host: Thank you for listening to “The Story Within.” Our story will continue in a moment. Salmon, a man from the town of Capernaum, was a tormented man possessed and controlled by an evil spirit. He had heard many things about Jesus—how He taught the people about God and how He healed many who were sick. Salmon wondered if Jesus could free him from his burden. When he heard that Jesus had come to Capernaum, he decided to go and see for himself. Listen as the story continues.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Jesus: *“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor. Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:18-19, 21).*

INSERT: (Sound effects: The crowd wonders about Jesus: “Is this not the son of Joseph, the carpenter?” “Who gave Him the right to say such things?” “He spoke those same words in Nazareth.” “He speaks the truth.” “He is only a carpenter’s son, not a rabbi!” “Hush all of you. Listen and learn.”)

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Salmon continues his story)

And then the evil spirit took control of me once again.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Salmon: (harshly, angrily, almost growling in a different voice) “*What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!*” (Mark 1:24).

Jesus: (sternly) “*Be quiet! Come out of him!*” (Mark 1:25).

INSERT: (Sound effects: Salmon shakes violently. The spirit leaves him with a whoosh. Salmon screams and falls. The crowd remains silent a few seconds. Then a few speak in amazement, “*What is this?*” “*A new teaching—and with authority!*” “*He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him.*” [Mark 1:27])

Jesus: Rise and go on your way, Salmon. God has heard your prayer and freed you from the evil one.

Salmon: (falls to his knees and grasps Jesus hands) Thank You, Jesus.
Thank You, thank You, my Lord.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Salmon continues his story)

News of Jesus spread throughout the region. My story became one of the many about Him. Wherever I went, people who knew me or had seen me before could not believe the change.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

INSERT: (Sound effects: footsteps of Salmon and Jason as they approach one another)

Jason: Salmon, my friend! (**embraces Salmon and slaps him on the back**)

They told me you were back to your former self, so I had to see you.

You look great!

Salmon: I am great, Jason. After years of misery, I have my life back, all because of Jesus.

Jason: The traveling Teacher?

Salmon: Yes, but Jesus is so much more than a teacher. No one but a man of God or God Himself could have done what Jesus did.

Jason: How so?

Salmon: Just look at me. I was a raving lunatic last week. People either laughed at me or feared me. Even you, dear friend, did not know how to approach me. Yet, here I stand, as normal as anyone. You cannot tell me that is anything short of a miracle.

Jason: Perhaps, (**pause**) or maybe it was just a coincidence.

Salmon: Trust me. That was no coincidence. One second I was screaming at Jesus, or the demon inside me was. The next, Jesus spoke, telling him to be quiet and leave, and in that instant, he did. I started shaking like a leaf in the wind, and with a scream, I fell to the ground. Just like that, the demon was gone. I fell possessed by an evil spirit. I stood a free man, all because of the compassion and power of Jesus.

Jason: Several religious leaders call Jesus a fraud.

Salmon: No fraud healed me, Jason. I have never met anyone with purer motives. Jesus asked nothing of me or anyone around me. He simply saw my need and healed me on the spot. From all I hear, that is what He does wherever He goes. He heals the sick, casts out demons, and shares God's love with everyone, regardless of their status. He dares to touch the unclean and love the unlovable.

Jason: Keep talking that way, and you may end up in prison like John the Baptist . . . or worse.

Salmon: I don't care, Jason. I will never stop telling others what Jesus did for me.

Jason: Okay. Okay. Maybe just tone it down a little. You know, not so loudly or not around everyone. Put a few precautions in place.

Salmon: You don't understand. Regardless of the consequences, I believe in Jesus and will continue to follow Him and to share the love He showed me. Who He is and what He does is far more important than my comfort. It is far more important than life itself.

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

(Salmon continues his story)

I would never have believed the dramatic transformation Jesus made in my life. He freed me from the demon within. Jesus filled the need that no one else could fill. He dared come close enough that I could see the love in His eyes. His power overcame the power of evil. With nothing but His spoken word, He gave me new life and hope.

I have no idea what my future holds. However, this one thing I do know, wherever I go and whatever I do, all I do will be in the power and the name of Jesus. I will share His love and message with everyone. They must also have the opportunity to believe and follow Jesus. However, the choice they make will never alter mine. Jesus is, and will always be, my Lord.

(Music: Dramatic music swells; then begins reprise of Theme music; softly underscore comments of program host during Our Response to God)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Program Host

Jesus loved Salmon and demonstrated His love by freeing him from the evil spirit's power. We may not experience the same type problem as Salmon. However, without Jesus in our lives, Satan remains in control.

We can never love God as we should until we experience the love of Jesus. We can never love other people as we should until Jesus' love fills our lives. We can never forgive others as we should until we repent of the sins in our lives and accept the forgiveness Jesus offers. We can never escape the power of temptation until we

allow Jesus' power to flow through us. We have no hope of a home in heaven without Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Jesus stands ready to free us of the evil in our lives, just as He did for Salmon. The question each of us must face is whether we will accept that freedom. Will we give Jesus full control and know the joy of His love and salvation? Or will we cling to our old way of life, controlled by self and Satan?

Jesus offers complete forgiveness for every bad choice in our lives. He offers new life and new direction. What will we do with God's greatest gift of love?

Now we come to the time when we can respond to God.

God made us. He made you and me. Because He created us, we are very special to God. He loves us with an eternal love.

I'm going to pray a brief prayer from my heart to God. Listen to my prayer, and then when I have prayed I will lead you to pray the same prayer.

Dear God, Thank You for Your great love for me. I love You. Amen.

Now repeat the prayer aloud after me. We will pray it a portion at a time. Make the prayer your very own to God. Mean it with all your heart as you pray.

Dear God, (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank You for Your great love for me. (pause for listener to repeat)

I love You. Amen. (pause for listener to repeat)

Thank you for praying that prayer. We will learn more about God and His love for us in the next program. The next episode will be a drama about “The Paralytic of Capernaum.”

(Music: swells to indicate change; then fades to soft underscoring)

Questions and Answers

The Questions and Answers below are designed to be used following the broadcast of the drama. They are questions a typical listener might have after listening to the drama. The number of questions used will of course depend upon the amount of air time available at the conclusion of the drama. It may not be necessary to use all of the questions provided. Voices used for the questions should include: male and female; young and old; believers and non-believers. The Program Host should give all the answers to the questions.

Try to make both questions and answers conversational in nature.

The questions should be asked in a forthright manner. Persons asking the questions should reflect different attitudes and positions. Most of the questioners should reflect an openness and honest desire for the truth; some should reflect deep concern; some should reflect anxiety; some could reflect sarcasm or unbelief; some could even reflect anger. Occasionally a voice antagonistic to Christ and the Gospel could ask one of the questions.

The Program Host should use warm and friendly language and tone of voice. He should never talk down to a questioner in a demeaning fashion regardless of the question asked. He should never express shock or surprise at the question asked. He should speak in a manner that puts the questioner at ease. Some producers might want to use names. For example, a question might begin with: “My name is _____. Could you explain . . .” or “My name is _____. Here is my question: . . .” The Program Host could use the person’s name in answering the question. The use of names is at the producer’s option.

The Questions and Answers could begin by the Program Host saying: “Thank you for listening to this drama. Now let us go to some questions that listeners like yourself have about what we have heard.”

1. Question: Did God really speak from heaven when Jesus was baptized?

Answer: Yes. God spoke and said, “*You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased*” (Mark 1:11).

2. Question: Why did Satan tempt Jesus?

Answer: Satan is the enemy of God. Jesus was the divine Son of God, but He was also fully human. Satan wanted to prevent Jesus from dying on the cross for the sins of the world.

3. Question: Why did Satan continue to tempt Jesus?

Answer: Satan never gives up. He did everything he could possibly do to prevent Jesus from dying for the sins of the world, to no avail. Jesus withstood every attack of Satan.

4. Question: What was a “demoniac”?

Answer: A demoniac was a person indwelt by an evil spirit, or demons.

5. Question: Are there people today who are possessed by evil spirits?

Answer: I personally think yes, there are persons today indwelt by evil spirits. I do not think we should attribute every mental disorder or affliction to evil spirits, but I do believe there are cases where evil spirits actually live in a person.

6. Question: How did evil spirits take control of the man in the story?

Answer: We do not know exactly how they were able to take control of the man. But evil spirits are very strong and at times they took control of a person in whom they lived.

7. Question: How were the evil spirits able to recognize Jesus as the Holy One of God?

Answer: We need to be very clear. Satan does not know everything. Only God knows everything. Satan does not have all power; only God has all power. But Satan and his evil spirits knew who Jesus really was, even though many people did not recognize him.

8. Question: Why does Satan continue to tempt me?

Answer: Satan did not give up on Jesus and he does not give up on us. He will continue to tempt us as long as we live. God's Word says, *"Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith"* (1 Peter 5:8-9). God also says: *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7).

9. Question: How can I resist the devil?

Answer: When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He used God's Word to turn Satan aside. We need to spend much time in God's Word. We need to read it and commit it to memory. If our life is saturated with God's Word, we can use it to turn Satan away. When tempted by Satan, we should pray for God to help us.

10. Question: I believe an evil spirit is controlling my life. What can I do?

Answer: Pray for God to help you and give you freedom. Read God's Word and meditate upon it. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. If you are doing things that are not right in God's eyes, stop doing them. If you go to places that are evil, stop going there. Ask God to help you withstand Satan. Believe that He will help you.

Thank you for listening and taking part in this program. May God be with you and keep you safe.

(Music: Theme music swells dramatically then fades as broadcast ends)

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