

# Gospel of Mark

## 26 Character Studies

*“A Man Possessed By Something  
But Touched By Someone.”*

### **Mark 1: 21**

21. They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24. "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!" 25. "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26. The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching--and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him."

## **The Secret is in Meeting Jesus**

**It is not about becoming religious or going to church.**

The devil goes to church. It is about encountering Jesus Christ whether at church, in the hospital, on your deathbed, in a bar, or on skid row. Jesus changes lives. It is not about self-help, trying harder, achieving better results, positive thinking, yoga, or getting your act together.

**It is about Jesus.**

# 1. How Did This Man Get Possessed?

Demon possession today in the movies. The Exorcist: weird, bizarre, strange and even funny. Demon possession to me is any man who has **surrendered control** of himself. He has been **willingly taken** over by **a force** other than Christ or himself. He is under **bondage**. He is **enslaved**. He is **bound**.

**John 8:32** Whoever sins (continues in) is a **slave** of sin.

# 2. What Is Possession? What Possesses You?

Demon possession or occupation, affliction, infection did not cease with the apostles, or end in 70 A.D., or the 1<sup>st</sup> century.

The word “possessed or possession does not exist.” = it is demonized

“daimon-izomai” = AV-possessed with devils 4, possessed with the devil 3, of the devils 2, **vexed with a devil** 1, possessed with a devil 1, have a devil 1; 13

**1) to be under the power of a demon. PLAGUED, ACCOMPANYIED BY A DEMON**

In the NT, these are persons, afflicted with especially severe diseases, either bodily or mentally, (such as paralysis, blindness, deafness, loss of speech, epilepsy, melancholy, insanity, etc.) **whose bodies in the opinion of the Jews demons had entered**, and so held possession of them as not only to afflict them with ills, but also **to dethrone the reason** and **take its place themselves**; accordingly the possessed were wont to express the mind and consciousness of the demons dwelling in them; and their cure was thought to require the expulsion of the demon.

It's about what binds you, what enslaves you, controls you.

**1 Corinthians 6:12** All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. **KJV**

# 3. How Does One Get Free?

**John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

That control that was lost through **drugs**, **demons**, or **deliberate sins** can be taken back through the power and authority of Jesus and his word.

**Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus!**

**A picture** is worth a thousand (10,000) words. (ie) Testimonies (ie) Danny Velasco and David Berkowitz, and many others...

# The Power of Personal Testimony - Illustrations

Thanks to Calvary – Gaithers

## [Danny Valesco Story – Brooklyn Tabernacle CD](#)

Play from CD – MP3 (see full story below)

## [David Berkowitz](#)

David is one of America's most famous serial killers, better known as "Son of Sam". He was a very violent kid with lots of depressed and weird behavior too. For a period he had very strong suicidal urges. He could barely keep himself from jumping in front of a train. After having served in the Army for three years he tried to get back to normal life but he got more and more stuck into the occult. In the summer of July 29, 1977 After crossing a line of no return **he killed six people and wounded 8 of whom one became paralyzed and one blind**. He was sentenced to 365 years in prison. After being ten years in prison an inmate came up to him with a Bible. After reading Ps. 34:6 he was converted to Jesus Christ and redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

**Play Story 2.20 – 20 min. Real Media File**

<http://www.forgivenforlife.com/>

If your life is broken and cannot be fixed, it its hopeless and cannot be helped, it its lost and cannot be found, ruined and cannot be repaired – **Come to Jesus**. If all hope is gone, and all help is vanished then **come to Jesus, come to Jesus, come to Jesus and live**.

If it is a son or daughter, husband or wife, mother or dad, friend, relative or foe, **bring them to Jesus, bring them to Jesus and see**.

## Closing Song

✍️ *Untitled Hymn: Come to Jesus and Live, by Chris Rice Lyrics*

## **Untitled Hymn: *Come to Jesus and Live***

By Chris Rice Lyrics

Weak and wounded sinner  
Lost and left to die  
O, raise your head, for love is passing by  
Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus, Come to Jesus and live

Now your burden's lifted  
And carried far away  
And precious blood has washed away the stain, so  
Sing to Jesus, Sing to Jesus, Sing to Jesus and live

And like a newborn baby  
Don't be afraid to crawl  
And remember when you walk  
Sometimes we fall...so  
Fall on Jesus, Fall on Jesus, Fall on Jesus and live

Sometimes the way is lonely  
And steep and filled with pain  
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then  
Cry to Jesus, Cry to Jesus, Cry to Jesus and live

O, and when the love spills over  
And music fills the night  
And when you can't contain your joy inside, then  
Dance for Jesus, Dance for Jesus, Dance for Jesus and live

And with your final heartbeat  
Kiss the world goodbye  
Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and  
Fly to Jesus, Fly to Jesus, Fly to Jesus and live

# Changed People

## The Danny Velasco Story

by Leah Jenvey with Danny Velasco

Many people view the fashion industry as glamorous and an exciting place to work. Looking from the outside it looks picture perfect. But like any good magazine there is more to an issue than the front cover. Many people don't know the harsh side of the fashion industry – a side that Danny Velasco knows all too well.

As a young hairstylist Danny dreamed of being a stylist to the stars. This dream propelled him into being the youngest stylist at Bergdorf-Goodman. With this experience under his belt Danny was styling hair for models that appeared on the cover of Seventeen Magazine. Cover models appear flawless and so did Danny's life. He had a promising future, expensive homes and famous friends but beyond the picture perfect façade there was an emptiness in Danny's heart. Danny searched for things to fill that void. He explored new age religions and went after every latest and greatest thing but nothing filled the void. Danny resorted to Heroin to numb the pain.

### Unpopular

Heroin worked so well that soon Danny couldn't feel anything but a desire for more heroin. It consumed his life and started damaging the things that were important to him.

One day on a photo shoot, Danny overdosed and had to be rushed to the hospital. His credibility went downhill and the industry that he dreamt of being part of no longer wanted him around. People stopped calling Danny to work and he lost some high paying jobs. His dreams were being taken over by his addiction. Before long Danny lost his expensive home and was living on the streets.

Danny thought all of his friends from his old life had forgotten him but there was one friend who did not give up on Danny. Wanda, a young model who loved his haircuts still held out hope for Danny. Wanda shared her faith in Christ many times but Danny just couldn't accept it.

### Living on the Streets

Life on the streets became a dangerous place for Danny. The only nourishment he got was the poisonous drugs he was taking that damaged his body. Danny was feeling the affects of the drugs and started hearing voices in his head. All-consuming, the voices would mock Danny and laugh constantly in his head. The drugs that were destroying him were also the only relief from the voices .

Danny needed money so he turned to the one friend that he knew would help him, Wanda. She agreed to help but with one stipulation. Danny would have to meet her at her church during choir practice. Danny accepted in desperation.

Wanda tried to talk to Danny about God. She even introduced him to a fellow choir mate who had lived on the streets. Wanda told Danny that once he called on the name of the Lord he would be healed. Still, Danny refused to listen. As quickly as the money came from Wanda it was used up and Danny was left worse than ever.

The mocking voices in his head broke him down so much that Danny wanted to die. He thought death was his only hope for relief. Danny didn't want to die on the streets, so he went to the hospital.

## **Hospitalized**

Strapped to a bed in the hospital, the mocking voices consumed his thoughts. With no escape, and no relief from the voices Danny was desperate for death. It was at this moment that voices quieted down to the point that Danny remembered what Wanda said, "When you call on the name of the Lord you will be healed." Wretched for reprieve, Danny pleaded to God for help. He bargained with him that if God would stop the noises and he would do whatever he wanted him to do. At that point there was silence in his head, no mocking voices, just complete silence. Danny was in awe of what just happened. He knew that it wasn't a coincidence, he was part of a miracle.

Danny wanted to keep his promise to God, so he went into a Christian drug recovery program. As he took one day at a time, he grew in his relationship with God. Today Danny is free from addiction and is now rebuilding his life. He no longer bases his sense of self-worth in what he has. He places his faith in the unmovable foundation of Jesus. As Danny started to rebuild his shattered career, people had a new respect for him, a respect that is more fulfilling than the highest accolades.

Danny has found his real voice, not the ones in his head but his singing voice. As Danny sings in the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir his heart and mind rejoices at God and his amazing love.

Take a look at your life. How would you describe it? Contented? Rushed? Exciting? Stressful? Moving forward? Holding back? For many of us it's all of the above at times. There are things we dream of doing one day, there are things we wish we could forget. In the Bible, it says that Jesus came to make all things new. What would your life look like if you could start over with a clean slate?

## **Living with hope**

If you are looking for peace, there is a way to balance your life. No one can be perfect, or have a perfect life. But every one of us has the opportunity to experience perfect grace through a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer. Praying is simply talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. Here's a suggested prayer:

Lord Jesus, I want to know you personally. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life to you and ask you to come in as my Saviour and Lord. Take control of my life. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? You can pray it right now, and Jesus Christ will come into your life, just as He promised.