

obey Him? Matthew relates these events somewhat differently than does Mark.⁵ For those things which Matthew speaks of at length, Mark has shortened; and, by the same token, those things which Matthew has shortened, Mark has expanded upon.⁶ The Lord takes only the disciples with Him, so that they would see the miracle about to take place. But lest they become puffed up that He took them while sending the others away, He allows them to be tossed by the storm; at the same time, He teaches them to endure temptations. He sleeps, so that when the disciples had first been shaken with fear, the miracle might appear all the greater to them. For if Christ had been awake when the storm arose, either they would not have become afraid, or they would not have called upon Him. He permits them to fall to a great fear of the danger, so that they might come to a realization of His power. For they had seen the good things done to the multitude, but they themselves had not experienced any such good things, and there was the danger that they would become lazy and careless. So He permits the storm to occur, but He sleeps against a headrest of the boat, this headrest undoubtedly made of wood. When He awoke He rebuked first the wind (for it is the wind which causes the sea to become rough) and then the sea. He also rebukes the disciples for not having faith. For if they had faith, they would have believed that even while He was asleep He could keep them unharmed. "They said to one another, What manner of man is this?" They still had doubts concerning Him. For when He calmed the sea by His command alone, and not with a rod, as did Moses,⁷ and not by an invocation of God, as did Elisha at the Jordan,⁸ and not with the ark, as did Joshua, the son of Nun,⁹ then they thought that He was more than a man; but when He slept, He appeared to them only as a man.

⁵ Mt. 8:23-27

⁶ A scholion in the Greek text adds: "For example, Mark says that with the boat in which Christ was, there were other small boats. He adds this detail, not without reason, but because he wished to show that, by divine ordering of events [lit. by economy], only the one boat was in danger of sinking."

⁷ Ex. 14:21-28

⁸ IV Kings (II Kings) 2:13-14

⁹ Joshua 3:12-24

CHAPTER FIVE

Concerning the legion of demons.

Concerning the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue.

Concerning the woman with the issue of blood.

1-5. And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when He was come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. The more precise of the manuscripts read: "into the country of the Gergesenes." Matthew says that there were two men possessed by demons;¹ while Mark and Luke speak only of one,² since they chose to tell only of the fiercer of the two. This man possessed by a demon approaches the Lord and declares that Jesus is the Son of God. For those in the boat were unsure what manner of man Jesus was. But the testimonial witness of enemies, such as the demons here, is the most trustworthy evidence of all. The possessed man lived among the tombs, as he wanted to inspire in men the false belief that the souls of those who have died become demons. But far be it from any one to believe such a thing.

6-10. But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and fell prostrate before Him, and cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of the most high God? I adjure Thee by God, that Thou torment me not. For He said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And He asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many. And he besought Him much that He would not send them away out of the country. The demons consider it a torment to come out of a man, and

¹ Mt. 8:28

² Lk. 8:27