



The Book of Mark

Session 5: Mark 4:35-5:43

As we have studied the Book of Mark, we have wrestled with some challenging questions. Jesus has laid down the challenge of discipleship. Teaching his twelve disciples the cost, but how the cost is still applicable for us today. We've studied and discussed what it means to follow Christ. This week we are going to get a glimpse of Jesus's kindness. We live in a fallen world. We all experience times of trials and tribulations. That is why it is important for us to keep this in our sight.

Read Mark 4:35-41

Question: Put yourself in the boat with the other disciples. What do you think it would have been like to experience the storm now that you have thought about it for yourself?

Important! These men are seasoned men on the water. They were fishermen. They know the power the sea can give. It's not like they had never seen choppy water before.

Fear can be overwhelming. We have all experienced it in one way or another. When we walk the road of discipleship, we will continue to have fear.

Question: Take time to reflect a time in your life when you were in a situation that brought fear. In the midst of that fear, what did your perspective of God look like?

- They faced their fears by turning their eyes to Jesus. They had seen him perform miracle after miracle. They knew Jesus would save them. But their fear came from doubting whether he would save them.

Question: Ask God to open your eyes to his true nature. Ask him to point out and remove the fake beliefs you have about who he is and what he wants to do in your life. Can you thank him for these storms and that he will see you through them?

Read Mark 5:1-20

- In this portion of scripture, we see Jesus going toe to toe with a demon-possessed man who comes right after the disciples only to see Jesus showing his power and rebuking this demon force. Not only can Jesus control nature in a storm, but he can also control the demons inside a man.

Question: What are the parallels between the storm on the sea of Galilee and the horde of demons inside the man?

- Take a look at verse 15 again. After Jesus permits the demons to drive a heard of pigs into the sea (the same sea Jesus conquered a few verses before), we see the townspeople being afraid also. They responded in the same way as the disciples.

Question: The man wants to follow Jesus, but Jesus didn't let him. Why do you think he turned the man down? Why is our testimony so important to share with others?

Read Mark 5:21-34

- Jesus gets swarmed by the masses again as they travel by boat to the other side of the sea. There is a synagogue ruler whose dying daughter needs help. Jesus commits to go in order to heal the daughter. As he travels, a woman with a bleeding disorder touches him. Something unique happens.

Question: What do you notice about the woman's attitude toward Jesus? How would you compare her confidence in him to the way the disciples viewed Jesus on the sea?

- She spent everything she had looking for a cure by doctors. But she heard about Jesus. "If only I can touch his garment".

Question: Why do you think the woman trembled with fear after her healing? What was Jesus's response to her? Do you believe that Jesus wants to be a part of your everyday life?

Read Mark 5:35-43

- The daughter of the man has now died. The people at the house tell the father to leave the teacher alone. It is simply too late.

Question: Have you ever felt a time in your own life that you'd been in a place where you felt that you were too far gone? Even for Jesus?

- The people were at Jairus's home weeping and wailing over the young girl's death. He asked them "Why all the wailing? She is just sleeping". So they laughed at him.

Question: Notice Jesus does not lash out at them, he simply proves them wrong. Has Jesus ever proved you wrong in your unbelief?

- Jesus brings in the mother and the father along with Peter, James, and John. He takes the dead girl's hand and tells her to get up! So she did.

Question: The King of the universe has power over death, the sea, over demons, and says to the little girl, "Come here, sweetie. Rise." How does this encourage your faith?

Your assignment: Take time to write down "What a Friend we have in Jesus". Let Him know how he helps you stand against your fears.

Next week: Session 6 Mark 6:1-29

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