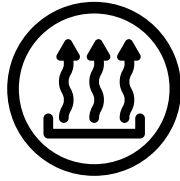




The Gospel of Mark



WARM-UP

What has made you marvel at God lately?

Read out loud as a group

MARK CHAPTER 4 RECAP

In Mark chapter 4, we see many of Jesus' parables that teach us about faith and the kingdom of God. It shows us different responses in faith to the word of Jesus Christ and how the true Light of the World is meant to be shared and shine for all to see. Chapter 4 ends with the story of Jesus calming the storm when he and his disciples were in a boat crossing the Sea of Galilee. It's from here that we jump into Mark chapter 5.

Read out loud as a group

MARK 5:1-20 (NIV)

1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. **2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. **3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. **4** 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. **5** Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. **6** When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. **7** He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" **8** For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" **9** Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." **10** And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. **11** A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. **12** The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." **13** He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Read out loud as a group

MARK 5:1-20 (NIV) CONTINUED...

14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 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. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” 20 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.



List out what Jesus' steps and the demons' steps in this passage. What truths does this show us?

Possible Answers:

- Jesus: stood there while the demon ran and fell down before him, told the demon what he was going to do, asked it its name, sent them/gave them permission to enter a herd of pigs, listened as people asked Him to leave, commanded the newly free man to go back home and tell people about Jesus, and then Jesus actually left.
- Demons: recognized Jesus, ran to him not away, knelt before Jesus, pleaded to not be tortured, answered his questions, begged to be let into the pigs, went into the pigs only after Jesus' ok, killed the pigs.
- Truths: the demons recognize Jesus and need no introduction, maybe even knew running away would not stop Jesus so they ran towards to beg for something else, a legion of demons followed Jesus' every word, the demons just wanted destruction and damage any way they could get it, Jesus values human lives over any monetary loss that might have occurred, Jesus listened to the people asking him to leave, maybe even had mercy on them for their fear of the wrong things.



The people of the region were scared of the wrong things. Seeing destruction from the demons as destruction from Jesus himself. In what areas of your life is it easy to slip into this way of thinking? How can we combat those thoughts with truth?

Possible Answers: Answers may vary. Combat it with the already and the not yet. Combat it with reminding that Jesus has already won the war, even when the battles get messy. Combat it with Jesus' other names: Good Shepherd, Light of the World, Living Water, Prince of Peace, etc. Combat it with the reminder that it won't always be like this. Combat it by flipping the script: no longer- "why is there so much bad in the world?" but rather "why, in the fallen world, has God provided so much good and beauty?". etc...

Read out loud as a group

MARK 5:21-34 (NIV)

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. 22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24 So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

Read out loud as a group

Discharge of blood. On account of her condition, the woman is ceremonially unclean (see Lev. 15:25-28). She is not permitted to enter the temple section reserved for women, or to be in public without making people aware of her condition. Touched his garment. Jesus makes the woman clean by his power, instead of becoming unclean himself (See Lev. 15:19-23; Mark 1:41,5:41.)

- Commentary from the Global Study Bible (ESV)



What stands out to you?

Possible Answers: Answers will vary.



Why do you think Jesus stopped and asked publicly about the healing? List all the things this accomplished.

Possible Answers: it was for the benefit of the woman and the community around her; so she would know she was indeed healed and that she didn't steal anything but that it was given graciously to her; it brought this woman back into the Jewish community and community worship; it made clear that she was no longer unclean; it invited her into the light which took courage and boldness; it showed the onlookers that her unclean touch, which was supposed to make others unclean, was made clean by Jesus; Jesus gave the "why" behind the healing: faith; he called her daughter, the very family of God.

Read out loud as a group

MARK 5:35-43 (NIV)

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” 40 But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.



What kind of belief does Jesus call for in the face of fear and despair—and how is this different from optimism or denial?

Possible Answers: just belief in Jesus without adding anything to it, belief that He will do what He wills, that He is trustworthy no matter what desires or outcomes we have. It's different because the whole bible declares the character and trustworthiness of God. We have the past actions of God to look at and cling to. It is something outside of ourselves that we can lean on.



Why do you think Mark includes this practical and small detail of Jesus telling the others to “give her something to eat.”? (vs 43).

Possible Answers: it shows Jesus caring for both the eternal and the everyday need. Jesus cares for your whole life, body and soul. The Bread of Life for her eternal needs and daily bread for her everyday needs.

Read out loud as a group

“Mark especially brings this out in the cycle of miracles that immediately follows the story of the storm at sea. Each of them shows Jesus confronting death. He deals with the man who lives among the tombs (5:1-20), and a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years (5:25-34). Both can be regarded as among the living dead. And then, in the case of Jairus’ daughter, Jesus deals with someone who has actually died (5:21-24,35-43). In this scene, we come to the heart of the narrative’s concerns. Like the disciples during the storm at sea, Jairus is struggling with the most basic fear of all, the fear below all fears; that is, the fear of death. Even in the face of this fear, Jesus urges him to “keep on only believing” (5:36). When Jesus conquers death by raising Jairus’ daughter to life, the disciples’ troubled question, ‘who then is this?’ is brought into sharp relief. Fear of death is answered by faith in the one who can raise the dead.”

- [The Cross from a Distance](#) by Peter G. Bolt, pg 42

DISCUSSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY



- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus enters the room of death, takes her hand, and speaks so gently?
- Where in your life have you stopped praying or hoping because you've decided it's too late—even for God?