



Mark 1:1-8

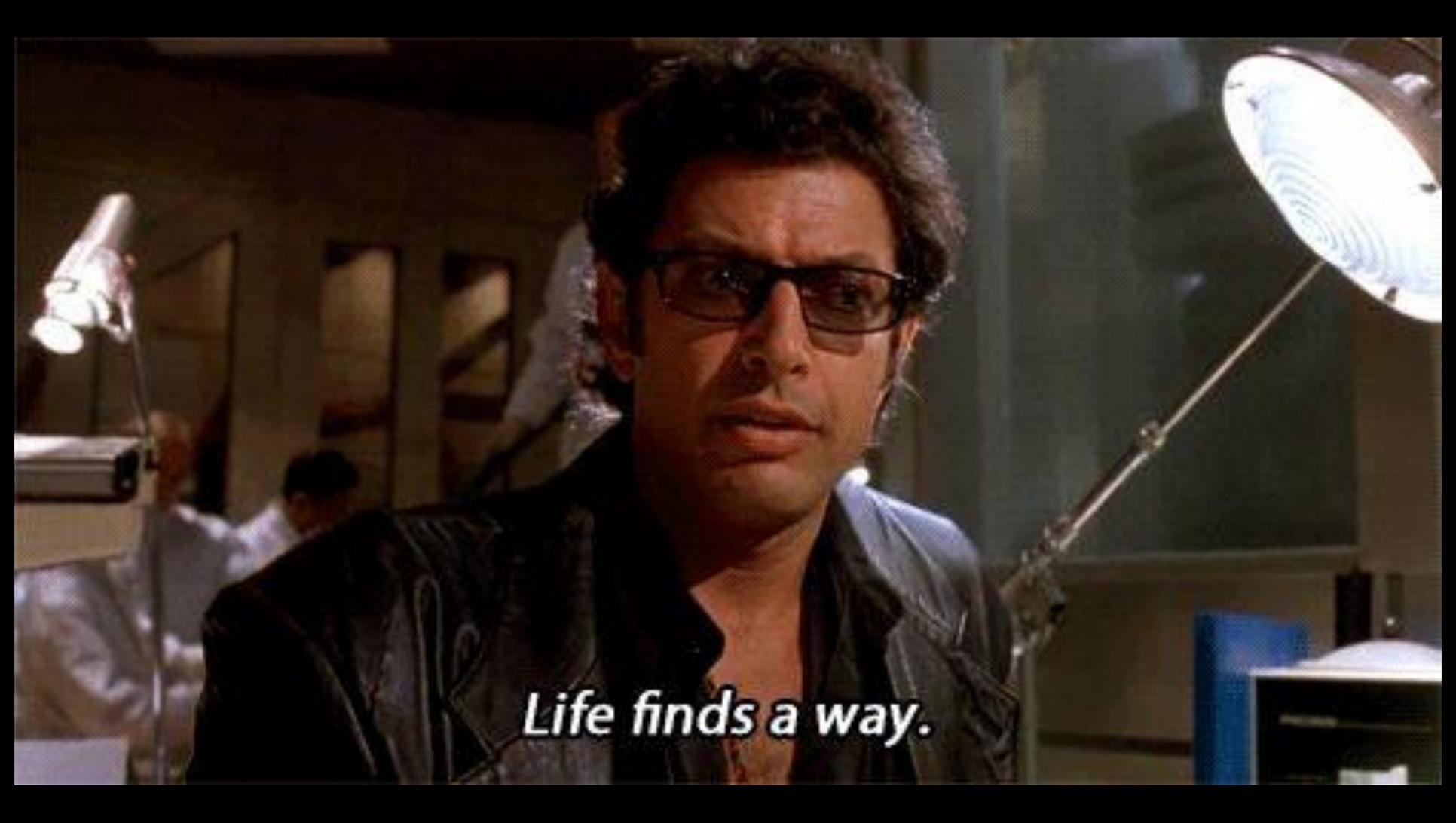
The beginning of the good news about Jesus the
Messiah, the Son of God,

Recap: Mark's Big Question - "Who is this man?"

1. Authority in teaching
2. Authority over demons
3. Authority to forgive sins
4. Authority over nature



An Adventure
65 Million Years In The Making.

A man with dark, curly hair and glasses, wearing a dark jacket over a dark shirt, is shown in a laboratory or medical setting. He has a serious expression. In the background, there are laboratory equipment, including a microscope on the left and a large overhead lamp on the right. The scene is dimly lit, with the overhead lamp providing a strong light source.

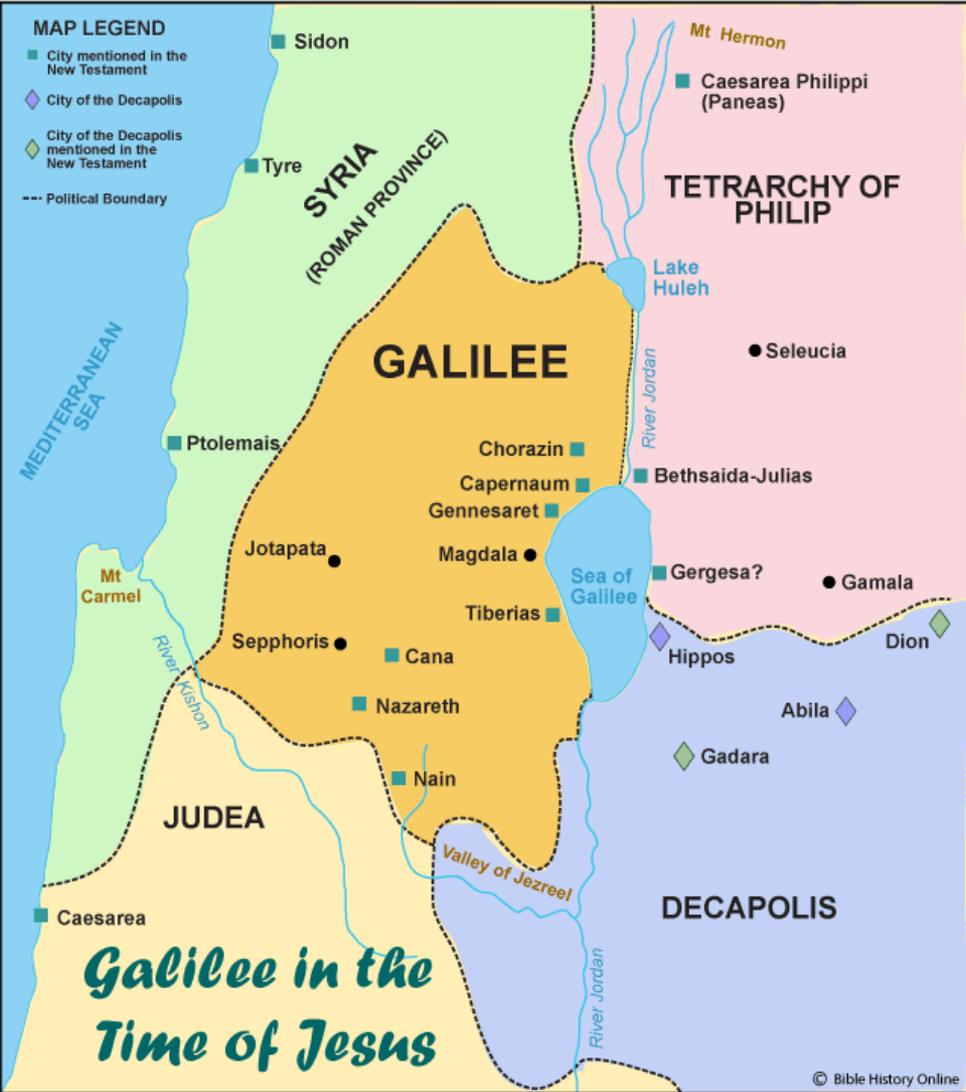
Life finds a way.

Today's Sermon: "Demanding a Sign"
Mark 8:1-13

I. Where'd they come from?

Mark 8:1-13

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, he called his disciples to him and said to them, ² “I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. ³ And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away.” ⁴ And his disciples answered him, “How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?”



Galilee in the Time of Jesus

Mark 5:19-20

¹⁹ And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”

²⁰ And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

I. Where'd they come from?

II. I Wouldn't forget

Mark 8:1-13

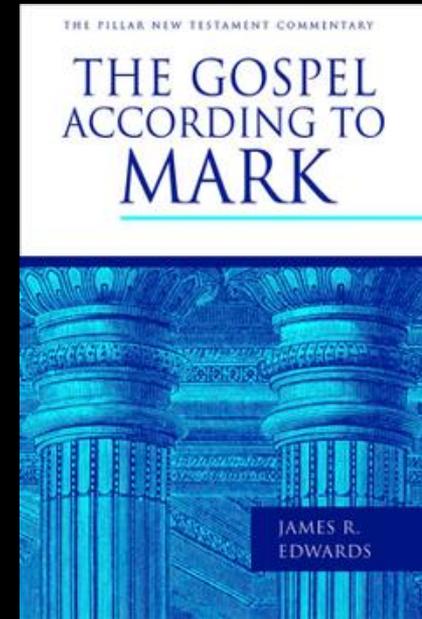
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Mark 6:41-44

⁴¹ And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And they all ate and were satisfied. ⁴³ And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men.

Although Mark records proportionally more miracles than the other evangelists, he certainly does not portray Jesus as a vendor of miracles. With but few exceptions in Mark, Jesus' miraculous activity comes to people – and especially to the disciples – as wholly wondrous and unanticipated activity.

Edwards, J. R. (2002). The Gospel according to Mark (p. 230). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos.



Mark 1

1. Drives out an unclean spirit in the synagogue
2. Heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law
3. Mass healings and exorcisms in Capernaum
4. Cleanses a leper

Mark 2

5. Heals the paralytic lowered through the roof

Mark 3

6. Heals the man with the withered hand
7. Large-scale healings and exorcisms by the sea

Mark 4

8. Calms the storm

Mark 5

9. Casts out the legion of demons (Gerasene demoniac)
10. Heals the woman with the issue of blood
11. Raises Jairus's daughter from the dead

Mark 6

12. Mass healings in Gennesaret
13. Feeds the 5,000
14. Walks on water

Mark 7

15. Delivers the Syrophoenician woman's daughter
(exorcism at a distance)

16. Heals the deaf and mute man

PHILOSOPHY OF MIRACLES

PHILOSOPHY OF MIRACLES

If I hold that the ‘laws of nature’ define the limits of what is possible in the universe—that no Law-giver / God exists behind the laws—then, in principle, ‘miracles’ cannot be viewed as rational, and no amount of evidence could be accepted as evidence that a miracle has taken place.

If I hold that the ‘laws of nature’ do not define the limits of what is possible—that the laws themselves point to a Law-giver/God behind the laws—then, since such a Law-giver could act through and beyond the natural ‘laws’, it is rational to believe in the possibility of miracles, and I am free to accept a miracle when there is good evidence in its favour.



**Professor Paula Fredriksen,
Boston University.**

“Did Jesus of Nazareth perform miracles? Here I as a historian have to weigh the testimony of tradition against what I think is possible in principle. I do not believe that God occasionally suspends the operation of what Hume called ‘natural law.’ What I think Jesus might possibly have done, in other words, must conform to what I think is possible.”

(Jesus of Nazareth: King of the Jews. Vintage Books, 114)



**Professor Paula Fredriksen,
Boston University.**

“So, to answer my own question: Yes, I think that Jesus probably did perform deeds that contemporaries viewed as miracles. Those I have least trouble imagining his working are: healings and exorcisms.”

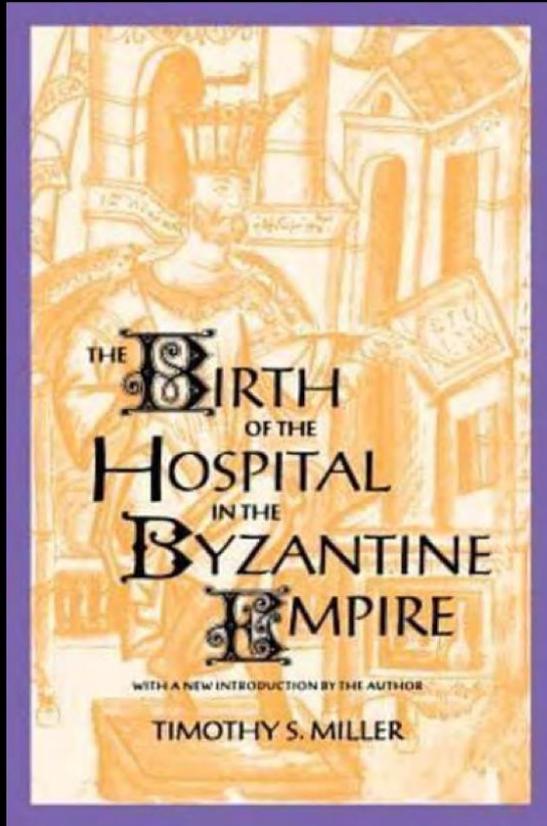
(Jesus of Nazareth: King of the Jews. Vintage Books, 114)

PRACTICE OF MIRACLES



The ancient church interpreted the healing ministry of Jesus *not* as the model for contemporary miracle-working, but as a sign of what God will one day do to restore the world, and therefore as an indication of the responsibility of the Church to ‘heal’ the world wherever it can, with whatever resources it may possess.

PRACTICE OF MIRACLES



Timothy S. Miller, *The Birth of the Hospital in the Byzantine Empire*. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997.

PRACTICE OF MIRACLES



While the Church could not heal the sick miraculously, as Christ is said to have done in the Gospels, it could follow the Lord's example of compassion, of "going around doing good" (Acts 10:38) using what resources it did have—money, buildings, physicians, and volunteers.

I. Where'd they come from?

II. I Wouldn't forget

III. Broke Bread and Gave Thanks

Mark 8:1-13

⁵ And he asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” ⁶ And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. ⁷ And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. ⁸ And they ate and were satisfied.

Mark 8:1-13

And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. ⁹ And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. ¹⁰ And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

I. Where'd they come from?

II. I Wouldn't forget

III. Broke Bread and Gave Thanks

IV. Demanding a Sign

Mark 8:1-13

¹¹ The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. ¹² And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation.” ¹³ And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

I. Where'd they come from?

II. I Wouldn't forget

III. Broke Bread and Gave Thanks

IV. Demanding a Sign

V. How I do This

- **Show me a sign before I obey**

- **Show me a sign before I obey**
- **Treating circumstances as divine fortune cookies**

- **Show me a sign before I obey**
- **Treating circumstances as divine fortune cookies**
- **Our faith fluctuates with emotional experiences**

- **Show me a sign before I obey**
- **Treating circumstances as divine fortune cookies**
- **Our faith fluctuates with emotional experiences**
- **Conditional Faith**



Gospel Application

Give Thanks!