



gracefellowship

Series: In His Steps
Date: March 12, 2023

Title: The One Who Restores
Passage: Mark 4:35-5:43

This morning we are going to do something a little different. I am going to give you the full outline for what we are going to see today in the text we are looking at. We are going to cover a lot of ground today, so I want to break up our reading of the text a little bit. There are four major stories that are in play today that all overlap.

I'm going to give you the big points to be looking for as we go through these stories and then after we get through all the text we are going to talk about what we need to know as we walk in the steps of Jesus. In a minute we are going to have a Scripture reading, then we are going to watch a video from my trip to Israel explaining the location of the second part of the story and finally I'll come back up and read the final events that we will focus on today.

Here is our overview and outline today- if you're taking notes, get ready! As the disciples are walking in the steps of Jesus He is revealing to them who He really is. The Jewish people have a picture in their minds of what the Messiah will be like. Jesus is going to challenge those thoughts continually and reveal that He is even more than they bargained for!

In Mark 4 and 5 here are the things you are going to see of Jesus that changes the expectations of what it means for Him to be Messiah:

- 1. Jesus demonstrates power over NATURE.**
- He restores **PEACE** in the storm.

- 2. Jesus demonstrates power over EVIL.**
- He restores a broken **MIND**.

- 3. Jesus demonstrates power over DISEASE.**
- He restores **HEALTH**.

- 4. Jesus demonstrates power over DEATH.**
- He restores **LIFE**.

(repeat for the audience)

As we read and listen to these events being described today, watch for these things to play out.

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

(Alex Johnston)

Video: Jesus heals the demon-possessed man in the tombs. (8224)

After calming a storm and releasing a demon-possessed man from the bondage of that oppression, Jesus and the disciples immediately get back in the boat and row several more miles back to the other side of the lake. We are told specifically where they go, but probably either Capernaum or straight across the lake is Magdala or Migdal. In fact, in Magdala, there is a church dedicated to the women who were involved in the ministry of Jesus and the miracles he performed around the Sea of Galilee. In the lower part of the church there is a huge painting depicting the miracle we are about to read about. Here is what we read happens as this day continues to unfold for Jesus and the disciples:

:: Mark 5:21-43

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.”

(show painting from Magdala) I purchased a copy of this print to display in our church when the framing is done and to remind us of God’s power to heal all our deepest needs!

But at the same time Jesus has stopped to heal this woman who has been bleeding for 12 years, there is still the pressing need of Jairus’ daughter.

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.

Fun fact before we move on- the woman Jesus healed had been struggling with her disease for the same amount of time Jairus’ daughter had been alive. Sometimes we read details like that and just skim over it- but she had been bleeding- which in Jewish custom made her unclean- for 12 years! She couldn’t go to the Synagogue; she couldn’t participate in the Jewish celebrations; she couldn’t touch people (in fact that’s one of the reasons some people think she only touched Jesus’ garments instead of touching Him- so he would not be ceremonially unclean from their interaction. She wanted the power of Jesus and she wanted to preserve the purity of Jesus.)

So, what are the common denominators in all these stories?

- **Desperation from the people.**

Every situation shows us people coming to Jesus in desperation. There is a need in their lives they cannot deal with in their own power.

Here's the second common denominator in each event:

- **Unlimited power from Jesus**

In every single situation Jesus demonstrates His power to do what no one else could.

Here's one of the main things I hope we walk away with today:

In the course of following Jesus we may realize we don't know Him like we thought- He is more than we imagined!

In the middle of a storm on the Sea of Galilee the disciples think they are going to die. If men who live on the water are terrified of a storm, it's a bad storm! What does Jesus do? He spoke to the storm and it stopped! And it's at that moment the disciples look at one another and say, "Did you know He could do that? I didn't know He could do that!"

There is more to Jesus than they understood!

Mark says they actually look at each other and say, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" (4:41) I think in this moment they are more frightened of Jesus than they are of the storm!

But Jesus met them in the place of their desperation with His power.

Then they make it to the shore and as soon as they get off the boat a man comes running up to them screaming at Jesus because he is possessed by demons.

The man is desperate to get rid of the demons and the demons are desperate not to be destroyed! They actually barter with Jesus, asking not to be sent out of the region, but rather to go into a herd of pigs on the nearby hills. So, for whatever reason, Jesus relents and allows that to happen...and the pigs run off the hillside into the water and drown themselves! And the disciples are looking at each other saying, "Did you know He could do that? I didn't know He could do that!"

There is more to Jesus than they understood!

Jesus met the man in the place of his desperation with His power.

When they get back to the other side of the Sea of Galilee a crowd is waiting for Jesus and one of the men in the crowd has another desperate situation, his daughter is dying. Jesus agrees to go to his house and help. But with the crowd pressing in all around Jesus, something happens. Jesus stops and says,

someone touched me! And the disciples are like, “Yeah...everyone is touching you!” But Jesus says, “No, this was different, I felt power go out of me to heal.” And then a woman steps forward and admits that she touched Jesus. She has been bleeding for 12 years and no one could help her. She was desperate and in an act of faith thought, “If I can just touch his clothes, I can be healed.” And that’s exactly what happened. Jesus commended her faith. And the disciples looked at each other and said, “Did you know He could do that? I didn’t know He could do that!” Jesus didn’t even have to say anything or do anything.

There is more to Jesus than they understood!

Jesus met this woman in the place of her desperation with His power.

The only problem with that whole scene is that they stopped to have this conversation when Jairus’ daughter’s life was hanging in the balance. That’s when some people showed up and told Jairus that his daughter had died. They were too late and shouldn’t bother Jesus with this problem any more. But Jesus looks at Jairus and says, *“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”*

They continue on to Jairus’ house where people are mourning and wailing, but Jesus tells them to stop. He has something else in mind. He actually says she’s only asleep- and the people laugh at Him! They’ve seen death before. They know this story is over. But Jesus has something else in mind. He leaves everyone outside except for Peter, James and John along with Jairus and his wife, then Jesus goes to the little girl and speaks to her: “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” And the girl wakes up, gets out of bed and starts walking around! And the disciples are like, “Did you know He could do that? I didn’t know He could do that!”

There is more to Jesus than they understood!

Jesus met this family in the place of their desperation with His power.

Here’s what we need to understand:

Everything yields to Jesus because He is the creator of everything! He has power over nature, evil spirits, disease and even death because everything is under His power.

The gospel of Mark is trying to tell us something as we follow in the steps of Jesus- He is not just another Rabbi...

- 1) HE has power over all creation.
- 2) He has power over evil.
- 3) He has power over disease.
- 4) He has power over death

Jesus is God in flesh!

So knowing all that: how could we deny that he speaks with truth and that He is who he says he is.

So seeing all this: how can we not trust him with everything circumstance in life...indeed, trust him with our very lives?

Let me give you one word of caution today from the events we have been looking at. Every one of these people came to Jesus in desperation. It would be easy for us to see our relationship with Jesus as a place to turn when we've exhausted every other resource and done everything we can in our power.

Desperation often drives our lives; be careful that you don't just desire Jesus when you lose all control and have tried everything else.

What if Jesus wasn't your last resort? How do we grow in our faith to the point He is the first place you turn for every need? Many of us live calling ourselves followers of Jesus, but we only call out to Him when our lives are out of control and we can't fix it. Yes, Jesus can step into your storm and calm the wind and waves, but He isn't interested in being your fall back plan. He wants to be Lord of your life and to be the first place you run to for all things.

Do we love Jesus for what He can do for us, or do love Him with an unrelenting need to be with Him?

The invitation is to walk in His steps. Let me say this clearly: Jesus has the power and ability to change our circumstances through His divine power. But even if He doesn't, the important fact of the matter is that He is with us. So the big question is this:

Is Jesus enough for me even if He doesn't change my circumstances?

Walking in the steps of Jesus means understanding who we are in relation to who He is. And He is more than we can imagine! He is the one who can restore our peace, our minds, our health and our life.

I think my favorite thing Jesus says in this whole crazy day He went through with His disciples was when they found out the little girl was dead. Jesus looked right at her father and said, "Don't be afraid; just believe." (5:36)

This is meant to permeate all aspects of our faith because Jesus is enough. He can do what you can't imagine! He has power for every situation you face. And most importantly He invites you to be with Him at all times and walk in His steps.

