

Jesus Heals at Gennesaret
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Text: Mark 6:53-56 (see also Matt. 14:34-36)

Gospel of Mark: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: The Healing of the Sick in Gennesaret

Central Idea of Message: Trust in Jesus is never misplaced confidence!

Introduction: Jesus had just recently fed over 5,000 people. He had sent the Twelve across the Sea of Galilee, rowing in the dark, to Bethsaida. The disciples had been toiling against a head wind for many hours when, exhausted, they looked and saw a human figure walking on top of the turbulent sea. They were terrified, until Jesus spoke words of encouragement to them and entered the boat with them, at which time the wind immediately ceased its blowing.

Now the thirteen of them in the boat were on to their next adventure recorded in Mark's gospel narrative, which is Jesus healing more people in the land of Gennesaret.

I. Immediately Recognized (vv. 53-54)

- A. The twelve disciples and Jesus cross over the Sea of Galilee (v. 53)
 - 1. Arriving in the land of Gennesaret, which is on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee about four miles south and west of Capernaum
 - 2. Mark records that they moored to shore, which means they rowed to shore and then tied the boat up to something on the land or in a harbor
- B. Immediate recognition (v. 54)
 - 1. As soon as they stepped out of the boat and onto the shore Jesus was recognized
 - a) Mark says the people recognized "him"
 - b) The recognition was of Jesus, not the disciples
 - c) Jesus was, for a time, the most popular person in Israel
 - 2. Mark consistently reports that the fame of Jesus was rapidly spreading

II. Immediately Cured (vv. 55-56)

- A. Many sick people (v. 55)
1. People were running around the entire region of Gennesaret announcing where Jesus could be found and gathering up all the sick and afflicted to bring to him
 - a) Pallets, crutches, canes, and makeshift wheelchairs were everywhere
 - b) The lepers, the blind, the deaf, the mute, the cancerous, even those with allergies, COVID, and head-colds were headed his way!
 - c) Some mineral springs thought to have healing effects were in the area, thus probably attracting more sick people than an area without such springs (cf. Grassmick 2:132)
 2. **For thousands of years, it seems that there has never been a time when there was a shortage of sick people**
 3. **These people were most interested in what Jesus could do for their physical needs, not their spiritual needs**
 - a) They came for his healing touch, not his teaching
 - b) They came from far and wide for what he could do for them, not for what they would do for him
 - c) They came, quite frankly, to use him to meet their demands and get what they wanted
- B. The sick were waiting on him in every village, city, and countryside (v. 56)
1. People were laying their sick family members and friends in the market places
 - a) That was one crowded mall area!
 - b) No available parking!
 - c) Jesus was good for business!
 2. People were entreating Jesus that they might touch the fringe of his cloak to be healed
 - a) **As a Jew faithful to God's word, Jesus wore the fringes and tassels which God commanded in Num. 15:37-39 and Deut. 22:12**
 - b) Perhaps word of how the woman with the blood hemorrhage had been healed had circulated
 - c) Maybe the people were simply superstitious
 3. Those who touched the fringe of his garment were being cured - all of them!

- a) Jesus knowingly allowed his healing power to go out from his body
- b) Apparently everyone who touched his cloak was cured
- c) Unlike the mineral springs and doctors, with Jesus there were no failed healing attempts!
- d) This would have been a remarkable sight to behold!
- e) **"Healing was not effected by a touch but by the gracious action of Jesus who honored this means of expressing their faith in Him"**
(Grassmick 2:132)
- f) **"What was involved was not simply material contact with Jesus' clothing, but the touch of faith"** (Lane 240)
- g) They truly believed that Jesus could heal them

Conclusion: Principles.

(1) Jesus set an example for obedience to God's written word which we would do well to follow.

(2) While asking for physical healing is encouraged, it should not be our primary, let alone only, motivation for approaching Christ.

(3) All people should be at least as concerned for their souls as they are for their bodies.

(4) Those who touched the fringe of Jesus' garment in order to be healed showed, like the woman with the hemorrhage earlier, their faith in Jesus to cure them.

(5) The Bible repeatedly records how Jesus rewards faith with his generosity, thus emphasizing the supreme value of placing faith in Jesus for all things physical and spiritual.

(6) Trust in Jesus is never misplaced confidence!