

3. God is in Control

In the Old and New Testaments we can see the results of trying to control the power of God by following a “how to plan” but neglecting a relationship with Him. These may sound like good ideas, but in neither case did it end well.

3 When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies." - 1 Samuel 4:3 NIV

13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." ... 15 One day the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" - Acts 19:13, 15 NIV

In each instance, these people tried to bring God into “their plans”. But the ark was captured, and the Jews were beaten by the demon-possessed man. Why do you think they failed? Have you ever tried to bring God into your plans only to find it didn’t work? What can we do to avoid these same mistakes?

The more we seek the presence of God, the deeper our relationship will grow. And as we develop a deeper relationship our faith and trust increases. God has the authority over all things and by trusting Him, even when His plans don’t align with ours, we can move from a place of fear to a life of faith.

WRAP-UP

Both the healing of the woman and of Jairus’ daughter describe who Jesus is. They both show us what the Kingdom of God is like. But they do not give us a formula of how to make miracles happen. (You don’t need to touch a piece of anointed cloth to be healed.) When we feel desperate it is easy to seek the healing and forget the healer. But Jesus’ invitation is for us to follow Him, seek His presence, and be a part of His kingdom. He will work out good for us, maybe in this life or maybe the next. Our physical life is limited. Even Jairus’ daughter and Lazarus eventually died a natural death. That is why we need to keep our focus on who Jesus is, not what He does. Jesus wants to take us from a place of fear to a life of faith in Him.

MEMORY VERSE

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." - Mark 5:36 NIV

Challenge – Set a daily time to meet with Jesus and spend time enjoying the peace of the presence of God in your day.

From Fear to Faith Gospel of Mark Ch. 5 - Week 2

INTRODUCTION

If you were asked what makes peace, deliverance or healing possible chances are your answer would be “Jesus of course”. But even knowing this is true doesn’t always keep us focused on Jesus when we are facing difficult circumstances in our lives. If we are honest, we might admit that there are times when we feel desperate for a miracle, and we focus more on making the miracle happen than we focus on drawing near to Jesus. In today’s study we find two people facing desperation and how Jesus responded to them. But this isn’t a “how to guide” for getting a miracle. It is further revelation and insight into who Jesus is.

Ice Breaker

Were you affected by the “boil water alert” this week in the 5 cities? If so, what was the biggest challenge you faced and what steps did you take?

Key Passages

Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe." - Mark 5:36 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Description of Kingdom Work

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."

- Mark 5:25-28 NIV

In this passage of scripture Jesus encounters a desperate woman. Her condition is described in the verses above. Have you or someone close to you had illnesses that persisted over many

years despite treatment? How did it impact them? How would you feel if you had suffered while under a doctor's care, spent all your money but gotten worse?

25 "When a woman has a discharge of blood for many days at a time other than her monthly period or has a discharge that continues beyond her period, she will be unclean as long as she has the discharge, just as in the days of her period. - Leviticus 15:25 NIV

In this woman's world, the bleeding was more than an inconvenience or even a physical debilitation, it made her unclean and prevented her from participating in worship at the temple. If others knew, they would not even touch her, or they too would become unclean. Yet, having experienced rejection, frustration and disappointment for over a decade she was clinging desperately to hope in her last chance- Jesus. And so, she dared to touch His cloak in hopes of a miracle. And it happened!

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." - Mark 5:32-34 NIV

Jesus knew she was in the crowd, and so He kept looking until this woman was seen. Jesus gave her more than physical healing. What else did Jesus give her? It was not touching the cloak that healed the woman, it was her faith in Jesus. If you were seeking healing, but Jesus offered you peace in your suffering, would that be enough?

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. - Mark 5:22-24 NIV

Jairus had come to Jesus before the woman was healed. In fact, she intercepted Jesus on the way to Jairus' home.

In what ways are Jairus and the woman opposites and how are they the same? How do you think Jairus felt when Jesus turned aside to find someone in the crowd while his child lay dying?

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." - Mark 5:35-36 NIV

In verse 33 the woman was trembling in fear in the presence of her healer. And in verse 36, after Jairus was told his daughter had died. Jesus

addresses the fear Jairus felt knowing the time for his daughter's healing had passed. What do you think Jesus was asking Jairus to believe?

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.

- Mark 5:40-42 NIV

Jairus' daughter was healed from more than sickness she was healed from death. Jesus' diversion to speak to the woman who was healed did not prevent Him from healing this little girl. In Jesus' kingdom sickness and death don't set the boundaries.

2. He Is

When we are facing the storms of life, the assault of evil or the diagnosis of sickness and disease we may start looking for "how to" get rid of storms, "how to" overcome evil or "how to" be healed. But Jesus wants us to refocus and have faith in Him, not on seeking how we can solve our problems. It is not the how but the who that is critical.

Pause for a time of prayer. Make each statement below personal to your life's circumstances as you focus on the one who wants to be present in your life and invites you into His Kingdom.

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" - Mark 4:39-41 NIV

Jesus, you calm the storm of _____ (relationship, finance, etc) in my life.

10 For he had healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. - Mark 3:10 NIV

Jesus you are the healer of my ____ (physical, emotional, spiritual pain).

33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." - John 16:33 NIV

Jesus, you overcome the evil of _____ (hate, violence, destruction) I see rising up in the world. I trust you in every circumstance.