



Study 6: Jesus—The Cleansing Man

Mark 4:35-5:43

Personal Preparation 1

In this week's passage we see Jesus do four great miracles. The obscure phrase "*just as he was*" (4:36) indicates there is no real break between what is about to happen and his teaching of parables (4:1-34). This suggests that these miracles are connected to the theme of the parables—the Kingdom of God. Today's passage shows us the power of the King and raises the question—how will people respond to the King.

Read Mark 4:35-41

1. How would you summarise the miracle that occurs?
2. When the disciples go and wake Jesus up, what are they worried about? Why do they wake him up?
3. How does Jesus respond?
 - i. v39
 - ii. v40
4. After Jesus calms the storm, what are the disciples now afraid of and why?

Did you know that throughout the bible the sea is often symbolic of chaos and rebellion against God. As a result, the sovereignty of God is often taught in scripture through showing God's mastery over chaotic waters eg. Genesis 1; Psalm. 89:9-10; Isaiah 51:9-10. This sovereign authority over chaos is now implied in the New Testament through the way the Christ now shows mastery over the stormy lake.

For Today: Seeing Jesus' power, the disciples change from being terrified of the storm to being terrified of Jesus. At first they're angry that he doesn't seem to care about their fate. Yet they were the ones at fault. Their fear of the storm was because they lacked faith in the authority of Jesus. What are some ways in which our lack of faith leaves us fearing the world? Is there something you have playing on your nerves or your mind right now causing you stress? How would trusting in Jesus more help your situation?

thoughts. questions. insights

Personal Preparation 2

Read Mark 5:1-20

1. What happens as soon as they arrive on the other side of the sea and Jesus gets out of the boat?

2. Interestingly, while the disciples asked "*who is this*" last study, today the possessed man knows exactly who Jesus is. Who does he recognise Jesus to be and what does this title mean?

3. Once 'legion' acknowledges the authority of Jesus, what does he ask Jesus to do? (v9-13)

4. After Jesus casts out the legion, how does the demon possessed man respond to Jesus? (v18)

5. What does Jesus tell him to do?

Fill in the blank: Verse 19—Jesus tell the man to tell others how much the Lord has done for him.
 Verse 20 - The man goes off to tell others how much _____ has done for him.

For Today: It's interesting to see how people respond to Jesus. In this scene we have demons, chains, tombs and pigs in the region of Gerasenes (Gerasenes was a part of a Samaritan region called the Decapolis). Everything in this scene points to a filthy, disgusting scene for any Jew. It's a scene full of death and uncleanness and the possessed man is rescued from it. But when he's saved from this deathly fate he becomes the most active disciple for Jesus, telling everyone about the mercy of the Lord. How often do we feel the weight of our salvation and feel compelled to share the news of God's mercy to others? Do we feel like God has actually shown much mercy to us?

thoughts. questions. insights

Personal Preparation 3

Read Mark 5:21-43

1. Two people come to Jesus in today's passage; Jairus (v22-23) and a woman (v25-28). What do they hope Jesus will do with his power and authority?
 - i. Jairus:

 - ii. The woman:

2. From Jesus' own words, what healed the woman? (v34)

3. As Jesus nears the house of Jairus they're told that his daughter is dead. What does Jesus then tell Jairus? (v36)

4. After Jesus raises the little girl he tells the parents "*don't let anyone know about this*". He says this just after he's just kicked a house full of people out. When the crowd see's the daughter walk out it wont it be obvious what happened? Why do you think Jesus said this after everyone knows what has happened?

For Today: We often find it hard to take our hardships and troubles to Jesus. We find this for a lot of reasons. Sometimes we doubt Jesus can help. Sometimes we're too stubborn or independent to ask. Whatever our reasons this is a great wrong, after all we're reminded in Philippians 4:6 - "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God*". Do you find it hard to bring your needs to Jesus? Do you sometimes doubt Jesus can or even wants to help?

thoughts. questions. insights

Jesus: The Cleansing Man, Group Discussion Questions

'Bondi Rescue' is a reality type documentary that follows a day in the life of surf life savers at Bondi Beach. Every week we see the lifesavers warn, caution and even rescue swimmers from near death experience. Have you ever experienced or seen a near death experience where someone has been rescued?

Let's reflect on the passage we've read during the week. If you've got some butchers paper or white board, write down a summary of each of the miracles you saw in personal preparation.

What is the common theme running through the four miracles. Keep in mind it should be a theme related to who Jesus is and what he has power to do, since as we've seen, that is the theme of Mark.

Read of Mark 4:35-41. As you do, does anyone else find it amazing that Jesus could sleep through such a storm?

The scene of Jesus sleeping in the boat while a storm rages around him really adds to our understanding of him. How is Jesus being portrayed in this instance? Keep in mind 2 things; i) Psalm 107:23-32 and ii) that Jesus seems to have been on the go since Mark 3:7.

The disciples are clearly terrified of the power of Jesus when he eventually wakes up and calms the storm... but should they have known better? Should they have known who Jesus is and what power he has?

Read of Mark 5:1-20. This would be one of the strangest events that's recorded in Mark!

Discuss what sort of life the poor possessed man had and would have continued to have, if Jesus hadn't freed him from 'legion'.

How would you describe what Jesus does for this man?

Also, keep in mind Mark 3:22-27 when you reflect on this scene. In light of this Mark 3 passage, how would you summarise what Jesus does in this scene?

As a result of all that Jesus has done in these miracles, how would explain to someone who asked—who is Jesus and what good is he?

From these 2 miraculous events Jesus is seen to be God incarnate, the Son of God, the King of God's Kingdom. He is the one to be feared, the one who rescues from death. When we turn to the bleeding lady and Jairus we see 2 people who believe in the authority of Jesus. We see their faith in action. The question is, have you put your faith into action? If people look at your life do they see faith in action? What struggle, sin or fear do you need the Son of God, the King of God's Kingdom to rescue you from? Do you believe Jesus can rescue you? What doubts might you have?

Pray

- Praise Jesus for his power and authority. That he is the King who rescues from hardships and death.
- Pray that we would learn to live with Jesus as our King. Pray that we will learn to put our faith into action.
- Pray that _____ would learn the truth about the authority of Jesus to save and bring rescue from hardships and death.



Remember

- Good Friday & Easter Sunday Services at normal time, 930am
- WOW Special Event, Barbara Hughes, Wednesday 26 March.
- Parenting Seminar, Queensland Theological College, UQ. Kent & Barbara Hughes, Saturday 29 March.