

SERMON | JESUS AND HIS MIRACLES

SERIES | BOOK OF MARK

STUDY GUIDE | DAVID STOCKTON | SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024

SERMON SUMMARY

The consistent things we see Jesus doing are fasting, prayer, solitude, Scripture memorization, fight the devil, baptism, start a small group, and teach the kingdom of God. In this study, we'll focus on how Jesus was closely proximate to the pain around Him.

Mark 4:35-41 – We see Jesus calming the waves and asking why the disciples don't have faith, chastising them for not believing He will take care of them. They learned that going through hard things doesn't mean Jesus doesn't care about them or their circumstances. Jesus needed to teach His disciples about His love for them. But He also needed them to understand His love for them doesn't mean they won't go through hard things. In fact, all these disciples would later be martyred in horrific ways. Hard things, even injustice and death, does not mean that Jesus doesn't love us. He just has a different perspective, a higher, clearer, and more accurate perspective than ours.

Mark 5:1-20 – We see Jesus heading to Gerasenes, which was not a place you would go on purpose, to set a guy free from demons. Jesus went out of His way, through a storm they had to know was coming, just to reach this man, and set Him free. The fisherman must have known the storm was coming, and yet, Jesus said we are going. These guys must have also known where they were headed was where the crazy guy lived. Jesus put Himself proximate to pain, seeking out desperate situations. Jesus didn't come for the healthy. He came for the sick.

Mark 5:21-43 – A synagogue ruler asks Jesus to come to his house to heal his daughter and on the way a woman with a blood issue touches Jesus and is healed. Jesus went to the sick girl and when He sensed power leave Him to heal someone, He made sure there was not just a transaction, but there was proximity, and relationship established. When the daughter dies, Jesus still goes right into the pain, grief, and sadness.

Mark 6:1-6 – Jesus, in His own hometown, was unable to do many miracles, because of their attitude toward Jesus. Even though the people didn't want Jesus there relieving pain, He still managed to find some people.

Mark 6:7-13 – Jesus sends the 12 disciples to preach repentance, drive out demons, anoint sick people, and heal them.

To do the things Jesus did, heal the sick, set the captives free, we need to put ourselves proximate to the pain. Foster care, adoption, volunteer at a pregnancy clinic, become a hospital volunteer, become friends with some homeless or under-resourced person, pray for people when they share their pain. Pray for people even before they share their pain. Compassion senses hurt before it is spoken.

Gregory Boyle's words pierces our hearts for mercy, "Here is what we seek: a compassion that can stand in awe at what the poor have to carry rather than stand in judgment at how they carry it." But then, take it one step further, and offer to put your shoulder under their burden, and walk with them awhile. You are not the Savior, but Jesus does give us wisdom, grace, and strength to help those we encounter, as the Holy Spirit leads.

SCRIPTURE READING

READ THIS WEEK'S BIBLE PASSAGE: Romans 8:29, Mark 4:35-41; 5:1-43; 6:1-13 (ESV)

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. – Romans 8:29

Jesus Calms a Storm

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, **“Let us go across to the other side.”** ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, **“Peace! Be still!”** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, **“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”** ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” – Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Heals a Man with a Demon

5 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ² And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³ He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴ for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and cutting himself with stones. ⁶ And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷ And crying out with a loud voice, he said, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me.” ⁸ For he was saying to him, **“Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!”** ⁹ And Jesus asked him, **“What is your name?”** He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.” ¹⁰ And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹ Now a great herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, ¹² and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and drowned in the sea.

¹⁴ The herdsmen fled and told it in the city and in the country. And people came to see what it was that had happened. ¹⁵ And they came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man, the one who had had the legion, sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. ¹⁶ And those who had seen it described to them what had happened to the demon-possessed man and to the pigs. ¹⁷ And they began to beg Jesus to depart from their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 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.

Jesus Heals a Woman and Jairus's Daughter

²¹ And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. ²² Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet ²³ and implored him earnestly, saying, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live.” ²⁴ And he went with him.

And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and

had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰ And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "**Who touched my garments?**" ³¹ And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, '**Who touched me?**'" ³² And he looked around to see who had done it. ³³ But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. ³⁴ And he said to her, "**Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.**"

³⁵ While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" ³⁶ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "**Do not fear, only believe.**" ³⁷ And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. ³⁸ They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹ And when he had entered, he said to them, "**Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping.**" ⁴⁰ And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹ Taking her by the hand he said to her, "**Talitha cumi,**" which means, "**Little girl, I say to you, arise.**" ⁴² And immediately the girl got up and began walking (for she was twelve years of age), and they were immediately overcome with amazement. ⁴³ And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. — Mark 5:1-43

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

6 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.**" ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Apostles

⁷ And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰ And he said to them, "**Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.**" ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them. — Mark 6:1-13

BIBLE PASSAGE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you in these passages? Did the Lord highlight anything to you? What do these passages teach you about the character of God? What do these passages teach you about mankind? What do these passages teach you about how mankind should respond to God? What do these passages teach you about how to respond to others?

Read these passages again (use a different translation if helpful). How did these passages help to convict, correct, or encourage you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH YOUR GROUP

1. What has your experience with miracles been?
2. Is there someone in pain, that Jesus is nudging you to be proximate to right now?
3. How has someone walked with you through your pain? What did that mean for you?
4. How have difficult things in life, brought you to a better understanding of God's love for you, and a closeness with Him?

PRAYER

Take some time for prayer requests and pray over one another before wrapping up.

