**BCM Bible Study – Sept. 15/16, 2021**

**Mark 4:35-6:6**

*This section of Mark is unique as it features longer descriptions of the miracles which Jesus performed as opposed to the many short vignettes seen throughout much of the book. The first three passages of this section serve to show that Jesus is Lord over nature, demons, sickness, and ultimately death! This image of his Lordship is then contrasted with his reception in Nazareth.*

**Read Mark 4:35-41**

* Even as this passage shows the divinity of Jesus, it also shows his humanity as he was presumably exhausted from the day and falls asleep.
	+ So what is the craziest thing (or location) you’ve ever slept through (in)?

**Read Psalm 107:23-31**

* In what way does this Psalm parallel the passage in Mark?
	+ What can we learn from this about who Jesus is?
* Is there any difference between the response the Psalm speaks of and how the disciples respond in Mark?
	+ Why do you think that the disciples might have responded with fear?
* Jesus seems to challenge the behavior of the disciples here, questioning their faith and why they would fear.
	+ Have you ever had a crazy experience that led you to have more faith or trust in God afterwards?
	+ How did God handle the situation differently than you would have?
* How does this passage show that Jesus is Lord over nature?

**Read Mark 5:1-20**

* *History note: A widely held superstition of the time was that if you said someone’s full name that you would have spiritual power over them. The demons were likely trying to do this in a futile attempt to overcome Jesus.* (Akin)
* The demonized man is described in excruciating detail here, showing the painstaking effect which the demons had upon him in every aspect of life. Yet, Jesus very clearly has compassion upon the man here who everyone else has shunned.
	+ What does this reveal about the character of God and how He cares for humanity?
	+ How can we as Christians grow to have a similar compassion for others? What about when their wounds are not as visible?
* How does the demons begging to Jesus indicate the power which he possesses?
* The people here seem far more upset about the 2,000 pigs running off and drowning than they were for the demon-possessed man’s unfortunate circumstances. Have you ever been more upset about losing property or money than about the circumstances of someone else nearby?
	+ What can this teach us about our hearts?
* Instead of letting the man travel with him and be near him, Jesus gives the formerly possessed man a different task - to go and proclaim all that Jesus has done for him.
	+ What does this teach you about who is welcome in the kingdom of God?
	+ What are some things which God has redeemed within your life that you could tell others about?
* How does this passage show that Jesus is Lord over demons?

**Read Mark 5:21-43**

* Compare and contrast Jairus and the woman. What similarities and differences are present between them?
* What does this passage teach us about the value of faith? How does spiritual knowledge then relate to faith? (It shows that what Jesus said back in 1:15 is what is actually wanted from us. These two people were so desperate that faith was their only option and it worked out for them. Both of them also had some incorrect knowledge or theology with their faith, but that wasn’t what Jesus was concerned about right now, with the start of their journeys.)
	+ What does this passage teach us about who can approach Jesus and relationship with God?
* **Read Leviticus 15:25-27** to further understand the woman’s situation.
	+ When the woman is healed, what has Jesus restored to her? Was it only a physical healing?
* Jesus surely knew who had touched him. So why did he ask this aloud to the crowd?
	+ After Jesus spoke to her so warmly, how must she have felt? What impact would this have upon the rest of her life?
* What can we learn from Jesus about being interruptible in our daily plans here?
* According to the Law and the beliefs of the people at this time, Jesus would have been considered unclean after being touched by the woman and by touching a dead body. Jesus was unfazed by both occurrences though. What are the borders that you have put up against things which you consider to be unclean?
* At this moment, why would Jesus tell the parents and disciples not to tell others about the girl’s resurrection? **(**This was prior to his own resurrection and to Jesus’ true glory in having risen from the dead with sin conquered**.** It also might have been the best outcome for the faith of Jairus and his family.)
* How does this passage show Jesus as Lord over sickness and death?

**Read Mark 6:1-6**

After those miracles showing Jesus as being Lord over so much, he heads home to Nazareth and receives this welcome.

* Why were the people unreceptive to Jesus and his message? (Hint: v.2b-3)
	+ If a 5-year old you knew came up to you and began to preach an eloquent sermon, how would you respond?
* Here is one of the two moments in the Bible where Jesus is described as amazed, with the other being due to impressive faithfulness (Akin). What about their lack of faith might have amazed him?
* How does considering Jesus’ interaction with his hometown affect the way you think about faith?
* How does it impact the way that you think about evangelism in your life, that even Jesus had places where people weren’t receptive?

This study has shown a unique passage through the book of Mark that is meant to glorify Jesus and make known that he **IS** the Son of God, and because of that he is Lord over all. As you go out over the next week, spend some time 1) thinking about some of the ways that you currently are seeing Jesus as Lord in you life and 2) some of the ways that you have previously done that!

**Notes:**

* Isaiah 43:1-12 serves as a beautiful parallel to Jesus’ calming of the sea, as it speaks of all of God’s promises and shows them being fulfilled within Mark
* Jesus calming the storm is a moment that serves to build the faith of the disciples
	+ It can be seen as a metaphor of the way that God cares for the church in the world
* “Jesus has already saved us, not from the perils of this mortal life, but from ultimate destruction. Confidence in this fact allows us to face all threats with courage and trust.” - Garland
* Much attention is paid to the description of the demon-possessed man in 5:1-20, yet do not let him or the demons become the center of the conversation. The purpose of that passage was to truly show another example of Jesus’ sovereignty as he doesn’t use any schemes or tricks like others might try.
* The presence of the swine clearly implies some amount of Gentile presence or influence as this would not have been allowed in the Jewish diet. The destruction of these pigs in fact would probably have been met with cheers from a Jewish audience due to the first-century culture there
* The destruction of the pigs was ultimately the fault of the demons, not Jesus. This is meant to show the destructive power of demons.
* “Jesus’ ministry shows that God’s holiness is unaffected by human impurity when it comes in contact with it.” - Garland
* Let this passage of 5:21-43 humble us and the way that we may more negatively view some diseases than others.
* Jesus bringing the disciples and waiting until the Sabbath to teach in the Synagogue shows him trying to be as respectful in Nazareth as possible