



Day Four

There are two quite startling things about Jesus' words to the woman who was healed (as recorded in Mark 9:34).

First, Jesus calls her "Daughter." This is a familial term; a term of endearment. What do you think is captured or conveyed by Jesus addressing her this way?

How might Jesus' comments in Mark 3:34-35 help you understand why He might be using this kind of language to speak to the woman? What could Jesus be implying?

The second notable thing is that Jesus commends this woman's faith. Earlier, Jesus gently rebuffed the disciples for their lack of faith (4:40). A short while later, Jesus has to encourage Jairus, the Jewish religious leader, to not waver in his faith (5:36). But here, Jesus affirms the faith of this simple woman. What is different about her? What do you see in her approach or response to Jesus that might help you understand what is different about her faith?

When Jesus calls Jairus to "not fear, only [keep on] believing" (5:36), the only immediate example that Jairus has is the woman Jesus has just commended for her faith. What do you think Jairus might have seen in her and her response to Jesus that would be of help to him in his moment of need?

Perhaps one of the things we should notice about the woman is that, ultimately, she hangs around Jesus for more than the mere addressing of her most obvious need. She begins to respond to Him personally—as more than "the source for healing." She opens up and tells Him about herself and what her life has been all about. She apparently trusts Him with more than just her "condition." How does this picture for you what Jesus might want from all those who come to Him with particular needs?

Day Five

Biblically, "faith" (or "believing;" the two English words are translations of the same, single Greek word) is much more than "wanting Jesus to do something." Although that may be the doorway into "having faith in Jesus," it is not the destination.

Clearly, Jesus is both willing and able to aid those who come to Him looking for help. He cleanses a leper (Mark 1:40-45) and heals and forgives a paralytic (2:1-12). He restores the man with the withered hand (3:1-6) and heals multitudes who come to Him (3:10). He doesn't seem reluctant to do this. But Jesus is not merely a "source for healing."

Read back over Mark 4:35-5:43. In this section, three times the issue of "faith" or "believing" comes up.

Where do you see pictured the idea of "believing Jesus *for*" something? Where do you see pictured the idea of "believing *in* Jesus"?

What is the difference between the way someone relates to Jesus when he or she is simply "trusting (or believing) Him for something" as opposed to coming to the place where she or he really is "trusting (or believing) in Jesus"?

Take your own "faith temperature" right now. Are you living in relationship with Jesus in a "trusting *for*" kind of faith or a "trusting *Him*" kind of faith? (Remember, it isn't wrong to trust Jesus *for* things; He responded to those who came to Him with needs and who were trusting Him for something like healing and grace.)

How do you think you can grow in your faith? What can help you not only trust Jesus *for* what you think you may need but to come to really *trust Him*, believe in Him, have faith in Him, in spite of how you see things playing out?



Day One

Mark weaves together, for his readers and for us, a series of snapshots about Jesus. His Gospel is, ultimately, one coherent story, made up of individual pictures that tell us who Jesus is and what He is like. As we read Mark, we need to pay attention to both the overall story as well as the details in each picture. This week, we return to the passage we explored last week to give a bit more attention to more pieces of the puzzle.

Let's begin by stepping into the overall flow of the section in which we find the snapshot we will give our attention to. Read all of Mark 5.

How are the needs presented by each of the three who come to Jesus different?

What, if any, are the common elements in each of the three episodes recorded by Mark in this chapter?

What seems to tie these three episodes together? Why might Mark have chosen to lay them back-to-back as he did?



Jesus had some traveling companions for all three of these incidents; the twelve were with Him for the first two encounters and three of the twelve went all the way into the house with Him when He arrived at Jairus’ house. What do you think these disciples were seeing or learning from their experience with Jesus across these three encounters?

Can you summarize, in a sentence or two, what you are learning about Jesus and your journey with Him from the encounters Jesus has as recorded in Mark 5?

Day Two

Last week, we gave most of our attention to the implications of Jesus’ ministry to Jairus and his daughter. Let’s review that briefly. Read Mark 5:21-43.

Try and imagine what this whole experience would have been like for Jairus. Imagine how he might have told someone about his experiences that day. Then, drawing on what the text tells us, write out what you think Jairus might have said if a friend had asked him to “tell about what happened” when he went to ask Jesus for help.

As you reflect on this experience Jairus had, what do you think the ultimate take away would have been for him?

Although we don’t all face situations identical to what Jairus was dealing with in coming to Jesus, we all have needs that threaten to overwhelm us that drive us to Jesus for help. As you consider the challenges you are facing in your own life, what counsel do you think Jairus might have for you? What would he tell you, based on his experience with Jesus, about how you should move forward with Jesus in the midst of your own difficulties?

After reflecting on what Jairus might say to you, spend some time talking with Jesus about where your heart is fearing and where you need to continue to trust Him in the midst of your own struggles.

Day Three

Sandwiched right in the middle of the account of Jairus’ trouble and Jesus’ rescue, we have the report of what happened with the woman with the “flow of blood.” Reread Mark 5:24-34.

How would you sum up the condition of the woman who worked her way through the crowd?

Recalling that the woman’s condition would have made her ritually “unclean” (making it inappropriate for her to have contact with others because she would make them “unclean” due of her condition), what must have been

going through her heart and mind as she made her way to through the crowd in her attempt to reach Jesus?

Apparently, she had heard about Jesus (Mark 5:27). Jesus had been ministering in this area before. What do you think she had heard that prompted her action?

Having received what she seemingly came for (her healing; 5:29), the woman turned and left. Why do you think she sought to leave after being healed?

Apparently, Jesus was not satisfied with knowing that the woman had been healed (5:30); He wanted something more. Assuming that His request for the one who had touched Him to come forward was not primarily for His benefit but for the benefit of the one who had been healed, what kinds of reasons come to mind as to why Jesus might have wanted the woman to identify herself?

It is only after the woman tells Jesus all about her past experiences (5:33) that Jesus affirms that she is now well, that she can now go in peace. This suggests that the exchange that Jesus had with her after her healing was instrumental to her wellness and her peace. What might her exchange with Jesus have added to her experience of healing?

We often come to Jesus with some need. And, when we feel or see that the need has been met, we quickly go on our way. What does Jesus’ actions with this woman suggest about what Jesus might desire from you in the midst of His meeting your needs?