

Mark

Lesson 7

Chapter 5:21-6:5

Participant Guide

Leader Guide Bible Studies

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Desperate Faith

Mark 5:21-6:5, Lesson 7

Opening Prayer

Introduction

Mark 4 and 5 portray Jesus' divinity, the God-Man with power over creation in the physical realm, over the spirit realm, and over disease and death. The chapters are a continuous account of two days in the life of Jesus. He is at the height of popularity. People came to Capernaum from all over the region to be healed and in hopes of finding the Messiah. In the evening, Jesus called his disciples to cross the sea of Galilee, where they met a storm that Jesus calmed by the power of his word. Once they arrived on the other side of the lake, two demon-possessed men met them, and Jesus healed them. The account is told through one of the men called Legion because many demons possessed him. After the healing, Jesus was feared and told to leave the region, so he returned to Capernaum. Awaiting him are the crowds of people he left the day before.

In this lesson, we connect with people who are in desperate need of a miracle and drawn to Jesus as their only hope. They are held up in scriptures as people with a profound faith.

A Dead Girl and a Sick Woman [Additional comments from Luke 8]

Mk 5:21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake.

Mk 5:22 Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet²³ and 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."

Mk 5:24 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. [Lk 8:42 As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.]

Mk 5:25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years.

Mk 5:26 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.

Mk 5:27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak,^{Mk 5:28} because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed."

Mk 5:29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

Mk 5:30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

[When they all denied it, Peter said,]^{Mk 5:31} "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

Mk 5:32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. [Lk 8:46 But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”]

Mk 5:33 Then the woman, [seeing that she could not go unnoticed], knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. [Lk 8:47 In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.]

Mk 5:34 He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

Mk 5:35 While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

Mk 5:36 Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just believe [Lk 8:50 and she will be healed.”]

Mk 5:37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James.

Mk 5:38 When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.

Mk 5:39 He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”¹

Mk 5:40 But they laughed at him [knowing that she was dead]. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him [Lk 8:51 Peter, John and James], and went in where the child was.

Mk 5:41 He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”).

Mk 5:42 Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Mk 5:43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

1. What caused the woman to approach Jesus in secret?
2. In what ways did Jesus care for her after the healing (Mark 5:34)?
3. How do you explain that a crowd was crushing Jesus, yet only the woman was healed by touching him?
4. What did the synagogue ruler risk in coming to Jesus?

5. Restoration to the community is a common theme in Jesus' healing. What care did Jesus take to restore Jairus' daughter to the community?

Jesus Heals the Blind and Mute (This account occurs only in Matthew where it follows the healing of dead girl and sick woman)

Mt 9:27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!"

Mt 9:28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied.

Mt 9:29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";³⁰ and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this."

Mt 9:31 But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

Mt 9:32 While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus.

Mt 9:33 And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

Mt 9:34 But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons."

6. The miraculous healing of the blind and mute were prophetic signs found in Isaiah 35:4 and 42:6 that God himself would perform when he came to establish his kingdom.

"Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ^{Isa 35:5} Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ^{Isa 35:6} Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.

^{Isa 42:6} "I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

7. What does the salutation, Son of David, reveal about how the blind men regarded Jesus?
8. Jesus usually took steps to restore a healed person to the community but he sternly warned the blind men not to tell anyone about this. What do you think was the purpose of the warning?
9. What was the role of faith in the healing of the blind men and mute man?

A Prophet Without Honor (Parallel reference Mt 13:54-58)

Mk 6:1 Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.

Mk 6:2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!

Mk 6:3 Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

Mk 6:4 Jesus said to them, **"Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor."**

Mk 6:5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. Mk 6:6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

10. The familiarity of the people indicated that Jesus returned to Nazareth, where the people tried to throw him off a cliff for blasphemy after he read Isaiah 61:1-2 (Luke 14:14-30).

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor.

a. What was their reason for rejecting him during this visit?

b. What are some other reasons people reject Jesus?

11. What do healings of a demoniac, a bleeding woman, a and a dead girl teach you about Jesus' love?

12. Discuss the relationship between God's power, Jesus' power, and people's faith in healing.

Closing Prayer