

Taking It Home:

- At Bethel Church, we want to be the kind of place that is safe and welcoming for the same kinds of people Mark writes about in chapters 4 and 5: scared sailors, demonized individuals, sophisticated religious people, and diseased outcasts. What are some of the ways you can help us make our environments more welcoming to those far from Jesus but wanting to be close to Him?

- Review Jesus' instruction in each of the sections listed from Mark 4-5 above. Do any of those instructions jump out at you as something you need to apply this week?

- Jesus meets the men and women of Mark 4-5 right where they are. Some have very little faith while others evidence incredible faith. In what ways can you specifically trust Jesus this week with an expectation that He wants to meet you where you are?

Recommended Resources

- *No Perfect People Allowed* by John Burke

Piercing the Darkness
"Do Not Fear, Only Believe"
Mark 5:21-43

Dr. Matthew R. St. John
Bethel Church
October 20, 2013

"Do Not Fear, Only Believe"

Notes:

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit pastormatthew.net and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit www.bethelcf.com.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of October 20, 2013

Mark 5:21-43

Quick Review: With vivid details, Mark retells the story of how Jesus encountered a desperate religious leader and a desperate diseased woman and changed their lives forever. Two very unlikely people are combined into one story of Jesus' incarnational ministry to those among whom He walked. For one, Jesus offered a last ditch chance to see his daughter made well. For the other, Jesus was the only hope she had to make her 12 years of bleeding stop. For Jairus to approach Jesus went against everything he stood for; Jesus was a Jewish renegade. For the woman to approach Jesus, she would have to break every demand placed on her by a society that said she was unclean. For both, their faith made them well. Mark's retelling of these stories reminds us that Jesus is more powerful than disasters, demons, disease, and death.

My Story:

- How does God most often answer your prayers?

- In those moments when you feel completely full of joy, what do you think about God? Do you think differently about God when you are overwhelmed?

- Do you know anyone who honestly believes that God has forgotten about them? How would you describe their life right now?

Growing Deeper:

- Zoom out and notice how Mark is building his case that Jesus is God. In one column record Jesus's instruction following the miracle. In another column note the response of those nearest to Jesus. What patterns do you notice? How would you rank the faith of the main characters in each of these stories?

Mark 4:35-41 (*40-41)

Mark 5:1-20 (*18-20)

Mark 5:21-34 (*33-34)

Mark 5:35-43 (*42-43)

- If you were teaching the story of Jairus' daughter and the diseased woman to an elementary aged child, what big idea would you spend the most time on and why?

- Did you know that the mourners in 5:38-40 were hired hands, paid to make music and dance to emphasize the grief of the family? How does their response in v. 40 reinforce that they don't have an emotional connection to this grief?

- What role does faith play in coming to Jesus for help? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:14-17; James 2; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6 as sources for how faith is lived out in the Christian life.