

March 24, 2019

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Restores

Introduction As Mark chronicles the ministry of Jesus around the Sea of Galilee, he describes many miracles and healings that took place. For example, Mark recounts the story of Jesus stilling a storm on the sea (Mark 4:35-41); he describes how Jesus casts demons out of a man into some pigs (Mark 5:1-17); and now, in the passage for this week's lesson, we read about two miracles of healing (Mark 5:21-43). This series of events illustrates the power of the Lord. Jesus has authority over nature; He has authority over demons; He has authority over physical illness; and, He has authority over death! This is the context in which we find out text for today.

Willing (Mark 5:21-24). Having just cast demons out of the Gadarene demoniac, Jesus crossed to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When he arrived, a crowd gathered around him (Mark 5:21). From the crowd came "one of the synagogue leaders" (Mark 5:22). One commentator explained that "A synagogue ruler was an important and highly respected person" (NAC, Mark, p. 93). This leader had an urgent request; his daughter was dying and he begged Jesus to come with him so He could lay hands on his daughter and heal her (Mark 5:23). The response of Jesus to this man's petition is described very simply by Mark: "So Jesus went with him" (Mark 5:24).

Undeterred (Mark 5:35-40). While Jesus is on the way to the synagogue leader's home, He is interrupted. He encountered a woman who had dealt with a serious illness for years. According to Mark, she had tried to find help but had been unsuccessful. In fact, Mark said that she "had spent everything she had and was not helped at all" (Mark 5:26). This woman believed that if she could simply touch the garment of Jesus, she could be made well (Mark 5:28). And, miraculously, this is exactly what happened (Mark 5:29)! At the moment she touched Jesus, He realized that "power had gone out from him" (Mark 5:30). He stopped to find out who had touched him. Somewhat incredulous, the disciples questioned Jesus about this. They asked him, "You see the crowd pressing against you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" (Mark 5:31). But, Jesus knew what had taken place. After a few moments, the woman who had been healed came to Jesus and told him everything. Jesus responded, "Your faith has saved you" (Mark 5:34).

Before Jesus could return to his journey toward Jairus' home, word comes that his daughter has died (Mark 5:35). Mark does not tell us how the father reacted; but, I confess I have often wondered what went through his mind. Having three daughters myself, I can feel the heaviness at this point. Undeterred, however, Jesus encouraged the father, "Don't be afraid. Only Believe" (Mark 5:36). Jesus, then, continued his journey to the house of Jairus.

Able (Mark 5:41-43). The scene outside of Jairus' house was typical for that day when someone passed away. People were "weeping and wailing loudly" (Mark 5:38). Jesus, however, was unfazed by this. He went into the house to the place where the child was. Jesus took the girl by the hand and spoke in Aramaic to her (Mark 5:41). Mark gave the translation of the Aramaic phrase: "little girl, I say to you, get up" (Mark 5:41). The very next verse explained that she did. Those that saw what took place "were utterly astounded" (Mark 5:42). How could they not be?

Conclusion This lesson reminds us of several concepts that can encourage us as we walk with the Lord. First, Jesus has authority. He can speak to a storm, heal physical illness, or raise the dead. Second, He hears our petitions. Third, He is always on time. It might seem to us that the Lord gets delayed in responding to our requests, but his timing is always perfect.