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The Gospel of Mark “Following Jesus” Mark 4:35-5:20 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we will see a distinction between two different mind sets. Jesus is on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples when a storm comes up. There is fear and lack of confidence in the disciples' reaction. Then in the second scene, we see a demon possessed man that has the demon cast out by Jesus. The man responds wanting to follow Jesus, but instead, is sent to tell others about Jesus. These two give us a contrast that will help us to better understand what it means, and what it looks like to be a true follower of Jesus.



Read Mark 4:35-5:20 (NET)

³⁵ On that day, when evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go across to the other side of the lake." ³⁶ So after leaving the crowd, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat, and other boats were with him. ³⁷ Now a great windstorm developed and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was nearly swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. They woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?" ³⁹ So he got up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Be quiet! Calm down!" Then the wind stopped, and it was dead calm. ⁴⁰ And he said to them, "Why are you cowardly? Do you still not have faith?" ⁴¹ They were overwhelmed by fear and said to one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and sea obey him!"

5 So they came to the other side of the lake, to the region of the Gerasenes: ² Just as Jesus was getting out of the boat, a man with an unclean spirit came from the tombs and met him. ³ He lived among the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For his hands and feet had often been bound with chains and shackles, but he had torn the chains apart and broken the shackles in pieces. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Each night and every day among the tombs and in the mountains, he would cry out and cut himself with stones: ⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him. ⁷ Then he cried out with a loud voice, "Leave me alone, Jesus, Son of the Most High God! I implore

you by God—do not torment me!" ⁸ (For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of that man, you unclean spirit!") ⁹ Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰ He begged Jesus repeatedly not to send them out of the region. ¹¹ There on the hillside, a great herd of pigs was feeding. ¹² And the demonic spirits begged him, "Send us into the pigs. Let us enter them." ¹³ Jesus gave them permission. So the unclean spirits came out and went into the pigs. Then the herd rushed down the steep slope into the lake, and about two thousand were drowned in the lake.

¹⁴ Now the herdsmen ran off and spread the news in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ They came to Jesus and saw the demon-possessed man sitting there, clothed and in his right mind—the one who had the "Legion"—and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen what had happened to the demon-possessed man reported it, and they also told about the pigs. ¹⁷ Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their region. ¹⁸ As he was getting into the boat the man who had been demon-possessed asked if he could go with him. ¹⁹ But Jesus did not permit him to do so. Instead, he said to him, "Go to your home and to your people and tell them what the Lord has done for you, that he had mercy on you." ²⁰ So he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him, and all were amazed.

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. Why were the disciples afraid when they were in the boat and the storm came up?

9. After Jesus rebukes the storm, verse 41 says they were overwhelmed by fear. Why were they still afraid after the storm?

10. Why was no one able to chain up the demon possessed man?

11. a. Why do you think Jesus did not allow the man that had been possessed to come with them?

b. What did He tell him to do?

12. What do the disciples learn about Jesus in these two accounts?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. The man that was demon possessed does not have any training or preparation before Jesus sends him out to tell others about Jesus' work. What do we need before we go out to tell people about Jesus?

14. What do we see in these passages that are examples of what we can do in our life in order to be a better follower of Jesus?

15. Where in your life do you see potential to make the same mistakes that were made in these passages?

b. How can you prepare to overcome this?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES