

Session 5: Mark 4:35–5:43

SESSION GOALS

Every session has a point—what each participant should walk away from the discussion knowing, feeling, and doing.

Main Idea: Because Jesus is a compassionate, powerful God, we can and should come to him with our concerns and needs.

Head Change: To know with confidence that Jesus is present with us in every circumstance.

Heart Change: To feel gratitude for the transformation God has brought about in our lives.

Life Change: To face our fears with the faith that God is our refuge.

OPEN

Have you ever taken a risk on something? Perhaps you applied for a job or moved out on your own. Or you queried a publication to gauge interest in your writing. Or you put your name down to volunteer somewhere new. **What was it like to wait for the risk to pay off (or not)?**

In this passage we find several people risking everything when they connect with Jesus. They decide the potential negatives are worth the potential rewards of following him, approaching him, worshipping him.

READ

Read Mark 4:35–5:43.

[illegible]

WATCH

Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in Francis's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions:

What difference does Jesus's presence make in the lives of those who are undergoing challenges?

How do the different people he encounters through his miracles react to Jesus?

Show Session 5: Mark 4:35–5:43 (11 minutes)

DISCUSS

In the video session, Francis taught from a boat on the very sea described in the passage.

Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. **What do you think it would have been like to experience the storm now that you've seen the sea itself?**

Though most of the disciples were seasoned fishermen, they were still afraid. They knew the power of storms on the Sea of Galilee—their fear wasn't based on a little choppy water. They recognized a powerful storm when they saw it. And—recognizing authority when they saw it—they turned to Jesus for help.

In the same way, we experience fear in the course of our everyday lives that's well-founded. As we walk the road of discipleship, we have to recognize that Jesus sees and acknowledges the reality of our fears.

the doctors and they'd failed her. But she had heard about Jesus. Like the disciples, she knew what Jesus had done for others, and she hoped he'd be there for her too.

What happened to her when she touched Jesus's robe?

Look at verses 32–33. **How is the woman similar in her approach to Jesus to the disciples or the townspeople from across the sea?**

How does Jesus respond to her?

Maybe you're in a situation like that woman. Maybe even though you love and follow Jesus, life has been crushing you under its thumb. Maybe you feel like you've screwed up one too many times—that you don't deserve Jesus's attention or help. But the picture we get of Jesus in this passage is a compassionate, loving savior who's waiting to respond to even the slightest bit of faith.

Jesus *wants* to be with you. **How does that fact—that Jesus wants to be with you—impact your daily life? What can you do to remind yourself throughout the day of this truth—that a compassionate loving savior wants to be with you?**

Read Mark 5:35–43.

Here, Jesus resumes his mission of healing the synagogue ruler's daughter. But by the time he's finished speaking with the woman who'd touched him in faith, messengers have already arrived. The girl's dead, they say. Don't bother, Jesus.

When in your life have you been to a place where you, like the messengers, felt too far gone even for Jesus?

What words would you use to describe that time in your life? What did it look like?

Notice Jesus’s words to the little girl’s father in verse 36. This entire week, people have responded to their circumstances with fear, but Jesus faces it head on. With tender words of love, he calls the girl awake—out of death and into life.

In the face of fear, Jesus is enough. No one is too far gone for Jesus.

How can knowing this truth impact your thought life?

Your emotions?

Your actions?

In what ways can you regularly remind yourself that no one is beyond the healing love of Jesus? And how will that impact the way you treat those around you?

LAST WORD

This week we’ve talked a lot about fear, about trusting in the power Jesus offers us, and about confidence in his care for his followers. Looking back at the moments in your life you discussed earlier, remember this: Jesus was (and is) there with you.

Take a moment and reflect on the words of the old hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” Fear will come in hard times, yes. But alongside that

demons departed, and he sat down calmly before Jesus.

Yet how do the people from the city respond?

"They began to beg Jesus to depart from the region" (5:17). Jesus had freed a man from a legion of demons. But the townsfolk cared only that the freedom had cost them their livestock. Rather than praise Jesus for what he had done, they were terrified by his power and cared more for their pigs than they did for this man now free from demonic oppression.

Most of us aren't pig farmers. Following Jesus probably won't mean a complete collapse of our agricultural enterprise. But following Jesus does come with a cost. Sometimes the salvation he offers means depending wholly on him, instead of on what we've come to trust for safety—financial or otherwise.

What do you depend on to get you through your day—or through your life (a job, certain people, etc.)? Where does following Jesus rank compared to those things?

What would happen if they disappeared and all you had left was Jesus? Would you, like the townsfolk, turn on him? Or would you, like the demon-possessed man, turn to Jesus?

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Members of the RightNow team involved in creating this video Bible study and study guide include:

Brian Mosley: President
Phil Warner: VP, Video Production
Paul Lanum: VP, Publishing & Conferences
Matt Wood: VP, Marketing
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