



Rockbridge Church Small Groups Lesson 5
Mark 5 – Real Jesus (Read Mark 5)

Questions:

1. What do you see in Mark 5 that helps you know what Jesus is like?
2. In what ways do you see Jesus hard at work, on a mission, with a purpose, loving people?
3. What one thing about Jesus stands out to you in this chapter? (What about Jesus astonishes you, amazes you, challenges you or comforts you?)
4. In Mark 5, who encounters Jesus, and how do they respond to Him?
5. How are you responding to the Jesus you encountered in Mark 5?
6. What was most instructive, and what did you appreciate most from Sunday's sermon?

Check out the additional notes on Healings, Signs and Wonders on the next page.

Healing, Signs and Wonders

*And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons . . .
And He said to her (a woman with a hemorrhage), "Daughter, your faith has made you well;
go in peace and be healed of your affliction." (Mark 1:34; 5:34)*

So far in the Gospel of Mark we have seen a number of stories of Jesus healing people. Jesus also performed other signs and miracles. What was the purpose or point of these miracles, and were they to be normative, continuing regularly, in the church today? Consider the following Scriptures, statements and conclusions.

- The first miracle in the Gospels is Jesus — God became man. Jesus is forever God incarnate, God with us. Any other miracle pales in significance! (*Matthew 1:23*)
- A miracle (like healing the paralyzed man, or the hemorrhaging woman) is "an intentional kind of God's supernatural activity in which He arouses peoples' awe and wonder in order to bear witness to Jesus." (See *John 5:36*)
- Jesus gave His disciples the authority to perform miracles, and sent them out into the "harvest" to present the gospel. Shortly, *"The seventy returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.'"* They faced the temptation of being in awe of the spectacular. So Jesus said to them, *"Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in Heaven"* (*Luke 10:1-2, 17-20*). The essential miracle is each and every new life in Christ; every other miracle is an incidental.
- Later in His mission, Jesus got weary of people seeking signs and miracles (*Mark 8:11-12 and Matthew 12:38-41*). Jesus actually quit doing miracles, saying that His final miracle would be the resurrection. The resurrection would stand for all time as conclusive evidence that Jesus is truly our God and Savior.
- Jesus taught in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (*Luke 16:19-31* — note especially verse 31) that if people would not believe in the written Word of God, they would not believe even if they saw a person return from the dead. His resurrection proved His point!
- Not everyone who performs miracles does so in the name and power of Jesus (*Matthew 7:21-23*). Miracles can be counterfeited.
- Never minimize the continuing and essential miracles always happening today — new life through the gospel. The gospel is the *"power of God for salvation, to everyone who believes"* (*Romans 1:16*). Everyone who believes becomes a "new creation" — one who was dead, but now has been made alive in Christ (see *2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:4-5*). When real people in the real world experience Real Life (Jesus) their lives become a living miracle.
- All the miracles performed in the Gospel of Mark were not meant to be objects of faith. They pointed to Christ, who is the only worthy object of faith. Always ask if any miracle performed today points clearly and quickly to Jesus.