



# Rooted

IN HIS WORD



June



# MIRACLES



# Rooted In His Word: Miracles

## Mark 2:1-12

June 6, 2021

### FOR THE LEADER

Over the next four weeks we are going to look at four of the miracles of Jesus. Jesus was a miracle worker. In order to understand the message from each of these miracles we need to first understand what miracles are and what their purpose is.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines miracle as, "an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs." It is God entering the affairs of man and doing something amazing. The Old and New Testament are full of miracles, ways God intervened in the affairs of man and did something great. But why? What was and is God's reasoning? What is the purpose of miracles?

What do you think is the purpose of miracles?

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Miracles reveal the character of God. They show us God is powerful, merciful and full of compassion. We see in Exodus 2:23-24 God intervening in the lives of the Children of Israel in their Egyptian captivity and sending plagues and eventually setting His children free and parting the Red Sea. God heard and He intervened. In Daniel 6:22 God closed the mouth of the lions when Daniel was cast in the lion's den. God divinely intervened in the life of Daniel and did something powerful. Each time we see a miracle God performed it is always going to reveal to us something of the character of God. That is one of the purposes of a miracle. We know more of who God is and how powerful He is when a miracle is performed. Some of the miracles in the Old Testament proved someone was in fact from God or that God had sent them. We see in Exodus 4:5 where God instructed Moses to throw his staff on the ground and it turned into a snake and then God told him to pick it up by the tail. He did and the snake turned back into a staff. Then in verse 5 God said this is how they will know you are from me.

Miracles always point beyond the miracle itself. Miracles are when God does something that defies human explanation or power and that miracle always points past itself to the one who does the miracle – God.

For Jesus, miracles proved He possessed the authority of God and that He was from God and He and God were one and the same.

Through today's lesson we want to answer the question, does Jesus still perform miracles today and if so, how can we experience them?

**MAIN GOAL:** If we can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is a miracle waiting for us.

**TODAY'S TRUTHS:**

**TRUTH #1:** If we want to see a miracle, we must believe He is a miracle worker.

**TRUTH #2:** If we want to see a miracle, we must be willing to overcome obstacles.

**TRUTH #3:** If we want to see a miracle, we must understand what we receive might be very different from what we expected.

**TRUTH #4:** When the miracle comes, He is glorified before a watching world.

## I. INTRODUCTION

**Read Acts 4:22-23**

*Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know —<sup>23</sup> this Jesus...*

Jesus was a miracle worker, one who does "mighty works." We gain a glimpse of the early days of Jesus' ministry in the first two chapters of Mark. We see that Jesus is baptized and then enters the wilderness for a time of temptation. Following His temptations, He begins His earthly ministry by calling His disciples. He is near the sea of Galilee and calls several fishermen, Simon, Andrew, James and John. The scripture says they each immediately left what they were doing and followed Jesus. Even before Jesus called His other disciples, He began to cast out unclean spirits, heal many who were sick including Simon's mother-in-law and many others. Then in the last few verses of Mark 1, he heals a leper.

Go around your group and have each person tell their favorite miracle of Jesus.

What do these miracles teach us about Jesus?

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Why do you suppose Jesus immediately began healing the sick and performing miracles?

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The answer for this question is found in one of the purposes of miracles. They are to show the authority of Jesus, that He is from God, and is God in the flesh. It was important for people from day one to see Jesus as God, the Savior of the world. The prophets had said the Messiah would be a miracle worker. As in the Old Testament, with every miracle Jesus performed, those watching knew more of who Jesus was and that He was a miracle-working Savior.

It is wonderful to remember the miracles of Jesus and yes, they teach us so much about Him and His power and His activity, but what about today?

Do you believe Jesus still performs miracles today? Why or why not?

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**Read Hebrews 13:8**

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

How does this verse relate to our answer in the previous question?

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Throughout today's lesson we must remember our main theme for the day – If we can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is a miracle waiting for us.

## II. GET FOCUSED

**Read Mark 2:1-3**

*And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men.*

### **TRUTH #1 IF WE WANT TO SEE A MIRACLE, WE MUST BELIEVE HE IS A MIRACLE WORKER.**

It always begins with faith. We must believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that He can do exactly what He says He can do.

Jesus had returned to Capernaum which is on the northern side of the Sea of Galilee. Many believe Capernaum was Jesus' headquarters during His ministry around Galilee. Jesus had been performing many miracles and people were hearing about them.

**Read Mark 1:43-45**

*And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, <sup>44</sup>and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." <sup>45</sup>But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.*

Jesus had performed a miracle in healing the leper. He then gave him instructions not to tell anyone and yet he immediately began telling everyone.

Why do you think Jesus told the leper to tell no one?

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Jesus did not want people to follow Him just because of the miracles. Some people even called Jesus a "Bread Messiah." Once he fed the 5,000, many followed Him to simply see what He might do next and maybe they could be recipients of it. Jesus wanted people not to follow just because of the miracles. His ultimate goal was for them to have a relationship with Him. Obviously, in Mark 2:2 we see there are many gathered in the home where Jesus was. Word was spreading that Jesus was a miracle-worker and everyone wanted a miracle. The house was full, and people were gathering at the door and there was no room.

There were five men who may have thought differently. They too had heard about Jesus and one of them was paralyzed. There was no hope for this guy. He would have been dependent on others for everything. He could not work. He most likely could not even take care of himself, but the five of them had heard about Jesus. Perhaps in their hearts and minds they thought, "If we can just get to the feet of Jesus everything will be alright."

These five men had faith that if they could get to Jesus, a miracle would occur.

How do you suppose they had such faith?

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#### **Read Romans 10:17**

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

We see from verse two in our passage that Jesus was "preaching the word to them." We don't know exactly what Jesus might have been saying to the people, however, knowing Jesus and the pattern of all His other preaching, we can believe He was sharing with them about the Kingdom of God and how they could be a part of it. We can know He was talking to them about how they could have a relationship with Him. When these five men heard the words of Christ, something happened in their hearts. According to Romans 10:17, we see that something happens when people hear the words of Christ. To hear is to take it in, not only in the mind but to take it to heart. When people hear the words of Christ, the Holy Spirit can take that word and infuse our hearts with faith. These five men heard something that would forever change the life of their paralyzed friend and their lives as well. Jesus had been and was now preaching the word. Something he said spoke to their hearts and they knew if they could just get to his feet, all would be well.

#### **Read Mark 2:5**

*And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

Jesus saw something in their hearts, their faith. Faith here is the idea of a conviction of the truthfulness of God. Jesus saw they had a conviction and had an understanding about the truthfulness of God in Christ. They came and laid everything at the feet of Jesus. Something happens when we do that.

If we can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is a miracle. Next week we will see this same faith in a woman who had an issue of blood for years and had been to every doctor she could find and had spent all the money she had with no results, until Jesus. She too heard about Jesus and thought, "If I can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is miracle for me." For her it was to simply touch the hem of his garment. She had the same conviction these five men had.

Faith is necessary if we want to see God intervene in our affairs and do something powerful, a miracle.

**Read Matthew 13:58**

*And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*

According to this verse, what prevents Jesus from doing miracles in our midst?

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How can we put ourselves in position to allow the Holy Spirit to infuse our hearts with faith?

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Our main theme today is: **If we can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is a miracle waiting for us.**

We see in our first truth we must have faith and we must get to the feet of Jesus.

What does it mean to get to the feet of Jesus?

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**Read Luke 7:36-38**

*One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. <sup>37</sup>And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, <sup>38</sup>and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.*

What do you believe it meant for the woman to "stand behind him at his feet?"

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The two words that come to mind are humble adoration. The woman obviously knew who Jesus was. The Scripture says she was a sinner. She had heard Jesus and just as the five men and the woman with the issue of blood, the Holy Spirit had infused her with faith to believe Jesus was the Savior of the world and her Savior.

She humbled herself. We are challenged in the Scripture to humble ourselves.

Jesus humbled Himself and we are challenged to humble ourselves as well.

**Read Philippians 2:5-9**

*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name...*

**Read James 4:10**

*Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.*

What do these two passages teach us about humbling ourselves?

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To sit at the feet of Jesus is to humble ourselves before Him. It is to set aside who the world sees us to be, who we think we are and humble ourselves before Him. It is to set aside our plans and our dreams and our abilities. It is to recognize He alone is our hope and our answer. It is to acknowledge that we have no ability of our own. We may be like the woman with the issue of blood. We have exhausted all our resources and Jesus is our only hope. The four men and their friend they carried to Jesus had no other hope or plan. It is to say, "Jesus, unless you come through there is nothing going to happen". There are times we must get to a point of desperation in our circumstances and then at that point, we have a total surrender to Jesus as our only hope. Jesus is not simply to be one of our options or one of our hopes, but our only hope.

What is the difference between seeing Jesus as a hope and Him being our only hope?

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Have you ever been guilty of seeing Jesus as simply one of the possible options you have? If so, how?

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Is there a situation in your life right now, where you have exhausted all your abilities and all your resources, that you need to bring to the feet of Jesus and expect Him to intervene in your affairs and provide a divine intervention? If so, what might be your first step?

**YOUR VIEWPOINT**

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**TRUTH #2: IF WE WANT TO SEE A MIRACLE, WE MUST BE WILLING TO OVERCOME OBSTACLES.**

Read Mark 2:2-4

And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. <sup>3</sup>And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay.

What obstacle did the men face?

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What was their solution?

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Because of their faith, they knew if they could just get to the feet of Jesus a miracle would be theirs and yet the journey to get to His feet was not an easy one.

What obstacles do we face in humbly approaching the feet of Jesus?

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We may struggle to believe Jesus can still do miracles today. We may think He will do it for others but not for me. We may struggle to humble ourselves by continuing to use our resources and abilities. Our obstacle may be others and what they say. When Jesus performed the miracle in Mark 2, there were those who refused to see it.

The obstacle the men faced in Mark 2 was not an easy one to overcome and yet they did.

What do you believe was the motivation for these men to overcome such a formidable obstacle?

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When we believe a mighty movement of God awaits us, we will humbly approach the feet of Jesus.

What is your first step to overcome the obstacles you listed above?

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## YOUR VIEWPOINT

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**TRUTH #3: IF WE WANT TO SEE A MIRACLE, WE MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT WE RECEIVE MIGHT BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE EXPECTED.**

### Read Mark 2:5

*And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

We all know the end of the story; the paralyzed man was healed physically. But before he was healed from his paralysis, Jesus forgave the man his sins. Recall the definition we began this lesson with of a miracle according to The Merriam-Webster dictionary as, "an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs." Two miracles occurred on that day.

Which of the two miracles would you say is the greater and why?

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We may think of a miracle as simply something amazing physically that God does. He heals the lame. He gives sight to the blind. He brings back the dead. All of those are truly miracles and certainly there was a "divine intervention in human affairs." And yet, the lame man, the blind and those He brought back to life all died at the end of their life. In no way do we want to lessen the miracles Jesus performed in each of these situations. In the same way, we do not want to overlook or lessen the miracle of Jesus intervening in a life that is lost and has no hope of forgiveness and eternal life and he intervenes and gives forgiveness and life eternal, life forever in His presence.

The greatest miracle of all is the gift of eternal life. There are other miracles, daily miracles, that we might overlook. Remember miracles are times when God intervenes in an extraordinary way in human affairs. With that as our definition, every prayer He answers is a miracle. Every marriage He restores is a miracle. Every life headed the wrong direction that is turned around is a miracle. Every person who comes to faith in Jesus is a miracle. Every hopeless situation that is infused with hope is a miracle. Miracles happen every day, we simply must be aware of them.

What ways have you seen a divine intervention in an extraordinary way in your life?

**YOUR VIEWPOINT**

**TRUTH #4: WHEN THE MIRACLE COMES, HE IS GLORIFIED BEFORE A WATCHING WORLD.**

**Read Mark 2:12**

*And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"*

What was the reaction of those who witnessed the miracle?

The miracle was a self-revelation of Jesus. It revealed to a watching world, this is who I am, and this is what I came to do. A miracle always points beyond itself. The miracles of the Bible always point to Him. They were amazed and they glorified God.

**Read John 12:32**

*And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*

Jesus said clearly when He is lifted up for all to see, He will draw people to Himself. We understand Jesus was speaking of his crucifixion, but He was also saying anytime the world sees His divine intervention in extraordinary ways in the affairs of men He will use that situation to draw people to Himself.

What do you think Jesus meant by "draw all people to myself?"

How have you seen Jesus using such "interventions into human affairs" to draw people to Himself?

**YOUR VIEWPOINT**

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**III. CONCLUSION**

We have seen in today's lesson an amazing miracle Jesus performed during His earthly ministry. We have been reminded through our main goal If we can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is a miracle waiting for us. We have come to a deeper understanding of that through our truths:

**TRUTH #1:** If we want to see a miracle, we must believe He is a miracle worker.

**TRUTH #2:** If we want to see a miracle, we must be willing to overcome obstacles.

**TRUTH #3:** If we want to see a miracle, we must understand what we receive might be very different from what we expected.

**TRUTH #4:** When the miracle comes, He is glorified before a watching world.

What is one step you can take this week to humbly approach the feet of Jesus regarding a circumstance or situation in your life?

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**IV. PRAYER**

Pray for your group to see the everyday miracles that Jesus performs.

Pray for your group to be followers who take everything to the feet of Jesus and not carry it by yourself.

**V. EXTRA TIME**

How, if any, has your view of miracles changed through the study of today's lesson.

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**VI. MEMORY VERSE**

Mark 1:17-18

# Rooted In His Word: Miracles

## Mark 5:21-43 – Jairus' Daughter Healed

June 13, 2021

### FOR THE LEADER

This is our second week of study related to the miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will call on the previous week's truths to build on our understanding of Jesus as a miracle worker who has authority over all. Last week we learned miracles are the extraordinary activity of God as he intervenes in the lives of people. We have seen that miracles reveal something to us about God. We gain a better understanding about who God is and what He can do. Each miracle that occurs always points beyond itself, to God. We will see these same truths manifested in today's lesson. Last week's lesson about the paralyzed man lowered through the roof by his four friends for Jesus to heal him certainly taught us those truths. We will see these truths play out again in today's lesson about the healing of Jairus' daughter.

All four of our lessons/miracles come from the book of Mark this month. The book of Mark is what is called "Christological." That simply means it is about Christ. From reading and studying the book of Mark we know more about Christ. The miracles reveal to us who Christ is. The book of Mark also stresses Christ's authority. He rules over all. In the first five chapters Christ heals a man with an unclean spirit (1:21-28), He cleanses a leper (1:40-45), He heals a paralyzed man (2:1-12), He heals a man with a withered hand (3:1-6), He heals a man with a demon (5:1-20). These miracles allow us to see that Jesus has authority, power and control over sickness, disease and even demons. He has all authority. In today's lesson we will see He has authority even over death. The only appropriate response to Jesus' authority is submission. If we find Him to have authority, our response to Him must be submission. This submission is a surrender of our lives to Him. Everything must submit to His authority.

When Jesus spoke to the evil spirits and commanded them to come out of the possessed man, the evil spirit had to submit and come out. When Jesus told the paralyzed man His sins were forgiven, and spoke over his paralysis, the illness had to submit, and the man was healed. When Jesus spoke to the man about his withered hand and told him to stretch it out, he stretched out his hand. Submission is the only correct response to Jesus' authority. When Jesus cast out the demons and told them to go into the pigs, the demons had to submit and obey. When He speaks, something always happens.

**MAIN GOAL:** When God speaks, you hold to that word despite what you may see, feel or even what others may say because He will do what He has said He will do.

### TODAY'S TRUTHS:

**TRUTH #1:** A word from Jesus in our desperation enables us to hold on until our faith becomes sight.

**TRUTH #2:** Time delay does not negate what God has said/promised.

**TRUTH #3:** Our response must always be "only believe."

## I. INTRODUCTION

Last week we looked at the miracle of Jesus healing the paralytic man who had been brought to Jesus by his friends that is recorded in Mark 2:1-12. The main goal of that lesson was if we can just get to the feet of Jesus, there is a miracle waiting for us. This same theme can be seen in our lesson today. We will see two miracles, the healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the healing of Jairus' daughter. In both instances they had to get to the feet of Jesus. They each humbly approached Jesus realizing He alone could help them and provide what they needed. The woman had tried so many things. She had been to doctors and she had spent all her money and yet she was still ill. She had been sick for 12 years. She was ceremonially unclean, and this uncleanness was transferable. Anyone she encountered she would have made unclean as well. She knew if she could just get to the feet of Jesus, or the hem of His garment, all would be well. It is the same with Jairus. If he could just get to Jesus everything would be alright.

Ask your class members if there is someone who found themselves in a situation and they came to a point where they just needed to get to the feet of Jesus. Ask if anyone could take a few minutes and share how they came to the feet of Jesus and the difference it made for them. If no one volunteers, maybe you as the teacher could share such an experience in your life.

## II. GET FOCUSED

### Read Mark 5:22-36

*Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet<sup>23</sup> and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live."<sup>24</sup> And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him.<sup>25</sup> And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years,<sup>26</sup> and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse.<sup>27</sup> She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment.<sup>28</sup> For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well."<sup>29</sup> And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.<sup>30</sup> And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?"<sup>31</sup> And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'"<sup>32</sup> And he looked around to see who had done it.<sup>33</sup> But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth.<sup>34</sup> And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."<sup>35</sup> While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"<sup>36</sup> But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."*

**TRUTH #1: A WORD FROM JESUS IN OUR DESPERATION ENABLES US TO HOLD ON UNTIL OUR FAITH BECOMES SIGHT.**

V. 22 tells us Jairus was one of the many rulers of the synagogue. The synagogue in layman's terms represented the established religion of the day. This is the place people would go to express their religion. They would also be taught there. Rulers were people who may have taught some, but they were the ones that kept everything going in the synagogue and were decision-makers. Often, we find that Jesus was at odds with the rulers of the synagogue. The difference in what the synagogue offered and what Jesus offered was a relationship with a living Savior. He offered forgiveness of sin, eternal life and life abundant even now (John 10:10). But on this day, Jairus, a religious man, knew that His religion was just not enough. He needed to hear from Jesus.

Do people today still struggle between being religious and having a relationship with Jesus? If so, how do you see it play out?

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Have you ever struggled with being religious rather than having a relationship with Jesus? If so, how did you overcome that?

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In v. 22 what posture did Jairus immediately take when he came to Jesus and why is this so important? (Last week's main goal holds a clue to the answer.)

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Jairus found himself in a desperate situation. His daughter was "at the point of death." It does not explain what her illness was or even how long she had been sick, but she was almost at the point of no hope. Her dad explained that she was at the point of death. It was something for him to leave his daughter at such a time and yet, he knew that the only hope for his daughter was for Jesus to heal her. Dads want to fix whatever might be wrong for their children. As a father, one of the most desperate situations you find yourself in is when you are unable to help your young daughter that is in such need. There was no other hope for her. We don't know what other things he might have tried. Perhaps he had a doctor to come. Perhaps he had found the best medications for her to take. We can assume he had tried everything there was and nothing had worked. He got to the point where she was at the point of death. If something miraculous did not happen, she was going to die. His only hope was Jesus.

As followers of Jesus, we know that when we find ourselves in desperate situations, Jesus is always the one we must run to, but what other things might people run to when they find themselves in desperate situations medically, financially, in marriage or as a parent?

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V. 23 tells us that Jairus went to Jesus and “implored him earnestly.” To implore is the idea to call near and invite. This is the idea of asking someone to come and help in a desperate situation. You add the idea of earnestly to this and it is not just asking once, but again and again. It is the idea of not taking no for an answer. Begging Jesus to come. He is desperately pleading for the help of Jesus. He even says to Jesus, all you must do is just lay your hands on her. Jairus had heard about Jesus’ healing power. Jairus knew she would live if he could convince Jesus to come and just lay his hands on her; she would not only live, but she would be well. “Well” is the idea of being healed or safe. It is the idea of being whole again and a type of protection. It is the very thing a father wants for his sick daughter.

Jesus agrees to go to the house. The implication is that He will not only go with him, but he will heal his 12-year-old daughter and make her whole again. Jesus agrees to come with Jairus. There is an implied promise. There is no question as to what Jesus is going to do.

So, they begin going to the house. I am sure this dad could not get there quickly enough. But something happens as they begin to make their way to Jairus’ house.

In the scripture above, what did Jesus’ actions imply His intentions were and what did he actually say to Jairus?

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We can only imagine at this point Jairus’ only thought was, “let’s get to my daughter as quickly as we can possibly come.” The urgency was expressed when Jairus said his daughter was at the point of death. They must hurry to her! He had hope because Jesus was on His way to heal her.

But then something happened. As if the Father was not desperate enough, Jesus got delayed by a woman who touched the hem of His garment and was healed and Jesus stopped to talk with her.

Do we hear any response from Jairus regarding the delay in getting to his daughter?

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Why do you suppose Jairus said nothing?

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Why do you suppose the woman’s plan was to simply touch Jesus’ hem and say nothing?

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Many have heard the story of a woman who had been ill for 12 years, the same length of time Jairus' daughter had been alive. She had been to every doctor and had spent all her money and was no better. In her heart she thought if she could just get to the feet of Jesus. If she could just humbly approach Him because He was her only hope and if she could just touch his garment, she would be healed. Perhaps she even thought, He does not even have to know. I will touch His garment and be healed and that will be that. It is possible, and please know we have no way of knowing this, but she could have been present during the conversation between Jairus and Jesus. The scripture says there were so many people there – throngs of people. Perhaps she heard of Jairus' daughter and fully understood the desperate need of the young 12 year-old girl and how Jesus needed to get there quickly. Perhaps the reason her plan was to simply touch His hem was because she knew He was headed to Jairus' house and she did not want to disturb Him. She had surely heard of Jesus' healing power. She certainly had great faith. She touched His hem and immediately she was healed. Now she can return home and life will be so different for her. But then Jesus stopped everything. He stopped for a moment on the journey to Jairus' house and asked, "who touched my garments?"

Jesus stopped what He was doing and spoke to the woman and ministered to her.

In Jesus' encounter with the woman, what do we learn about Jesus?

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No matter what Jesus was doing, He was never too busy to minister to someone. As desperate as the need was for the young girl, Jesus stopped and ministered to a woman who had suffered so much for the past 12 years physically and emotionally. Jesus is never too busy to hear, see, touch or minister to someone who humbly comes to Him in need. Jesus sees every person then and now as if they were the only person He is ministering to. When we pray, there are so many other people praying worldwide and yet, He hears us and responds to us and speaks to us as if we are the only person He is listening to and ministering to. This is part of His character of being all-knowing, all-powerful and everywhere. This is the Jesus we serve.

What does it mean to you that Jesus sees you at your point of need?

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Have there been times in your life when you failed to approach Jesus because you thought He was too busy for you or that your need was too insignificant in comparison to the needs of others?

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How does Jesus' dealings with the woman with the issue of blood change your view of that?

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V. 35 tells us that during Jesus' ministry to the woman who had just been healed, word comes to Jairus from his house. The word is, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" The word trouble means to harass. The implication from this word usage is, there is nothing He can do now, so stop bothering Him.

If things were not desperate enough for this father when he first came to Jesus, now the word comes that she is dead and yet we hear no response from Jairus.

According to v. 36 what does Jesus say to Jairus?

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Jesus is saying no matter what he might hear, no matter what he might feel as a Father and no matter what others may tell him as he arrives at his house, trust me. It's as if Jesus was saying, "I have told you I will heal her by going with you. Remember, do not allow your fear to overcome what I have told you and your belief in me."

**Read Romans 10:17**

*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

Jesus had spoken. Jairus received a word from Jesus as to what He was going to do and in hearing that word, he believed. He believed in spite what he saw, what he heard from others and in spite what he would soon hear at his home from the mourners who had already arrived.

Hearing a word from Jesus and believing it can soften our fears.

Do we ever allow our belief to be stifled because of fears of what we hear, see and think? If so, how?

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Jairus had a word from Jesus and He trusted in that word and it allowed him to hold on until what he believed would become a reality.

Has there been a time in your life when you heard a word from God, maybe through scripture or a sermon during a difficult time, and you held to that word even when things may have appeared contrary to that word?

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What difference did it make to have that word from God?

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**YOUR VIEWPOINT**

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**TRUTH #2: TIME DELAY DOES NOT NEGATE WHAT GOD HAS SAID/PROMISED.**

We saw in the previous scripture how Jesus was delayed in going to Jairus' house to heal his daughter as He had promised. When Jesus says something, it is a done deal and time is of no consequence. There is a pattern in the scripture of this.

God made a promise to Abraham in Genesis 15:1-6 that he would be the father of many nations and yet it was 25 years before the promise was fulfilled. Delay did not diminish the word from God.

God promised Israel a land flowing with milk and honey and yet it took 40 years for them to experience it.

Hebrews 11:38-39 God had promised His children a Savior and they all died before He was born. Delay in the promise/the word did not diminish the promise.

What God says, He will do no matter the time frame.

Why is it so difficult for us to wait from the time of a promise is given to the promise being fulfilled?

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Romans 10:19 tells us about Abraham in waiting for his son that God had promised to be born, "He did not weaken in faith."

What are some practical things we can do to keep holding to the promises given and "not weaken in faith?"

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**YOUR VIEWPOINT**

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**TRUTH #3: OUR RESPONSE MUST ALWAYS BE "ONLY BELIEVE."**

When Jairus heard the news from his home that his daughter had died, before he could say anything, Jesus responded to him or rather challenged him. He said, "Only Believe." Jairus had one job and that was to believe what Jesus had told him.

What other things could Jairus have done at this point?

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He could have taken the messenger's advice of don't trouble Jesus anymore. He could have panicked. He could have fussed about the woman who delayed them thinking that his daughter would be alive if Jesus had not stopped to talk with her. Jesus knew Jairus could have done any of these things, so His challenge was, "Only believe." I have clearly told you I am going to heal your daughter. Believe in what I have said!

In the first two lessons of this month we learned how the Gospel of Mark demonstrates Jesus' authority over all, whether that is demons, paralysis, illnesses and now even over death. He has authority over all of these. What He desires is to have authority over our hearts and minds and lives. This is the real heart's desire of Jesus. Yes, He has authority over all and when we realize this, our only response is submission. We must take our will and place it under His. We must take our thoughts and our ideas and what we claim to believe and place it under His.

The challenge to Jairus was he had heard of Jesus' authority over other healings and miracles, now will he allow Jesus to have authority over what he believed? Would Jairus take what his thoughts and feelings were and place them under the authority of Jesus? He did and wow what a blessing he received. His daughter who was dead is now alive!

If we believe Jesus has full authority in life, then we must submit to His authority.

What might that look like in practical ways in our lives?

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Submitting to the authority of Jesus affects our lifestyle, our choices, our priorities and the decisions we make daily, how we spend our money and how we use my time.

#### **YOUR VIEWPOINT**

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### **III. CONCLUSION**

We have seen in today's lesson when God speaks, we hold to that word despite what we may see, feel or even what others may say because He will do what He has said He will do. We have come to a deeper understanding of this main goal through our truths:

**TRUTH #1:** A word from Jesus in our desperation enables us to hold on until our faith becomes sight.

**TRUTH #2:** Time delay does not negate what God has said/promised.

**TRUTH #3:** Our response must always be "only believe."

## IV. EXTRA TIME

A key point of this lesson is hearing from God, getting a word from Him as Jairus did from Jesus. How do we get this? Henry Blackaby, in his discipleship book entitled, "Experiencing God, knowing and doing the will of God" states as one of the foundational truths, "God speaks by His Spirit through the Word, Prayer, Circumstances and the Church."

Do you believe God speaks to His children in these ways? If so, please explain.

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How has God spoken to you?

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## V. PRAYER

Lead your class in a time of praying for our hearts to be sensitive to hear what God says and faith to trust Him no matter what we may see, feel or hear others saying.

## VI. MEMORY VERSE

Mark 5:28

# Rooted In His Word: Miracles

## Mark 6:30-44 – Feeding the 5,000

June 20, 2021

### FOR THE LEADER

Over the last three weeks, we have been looking at the miracles of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Mark. Studying these miracles has given us a better understanding of who Jesus is. That is one of the purposes of miracles and specifically of Mark's writings.

Over the past weeks, what have we come to understand of the character of Jesus, what kind of Savior is He? (This might be a good way to start your lesson today by asking your class this question, based on the miracles we have studied thus far.)

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How has your understanding of Jesus changed?

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The miracles also help us understand something of how God works by seeing the life and activities of Jesus as they are recorded in the Gospels. If we look closely at not simply one miracle but at many miracles and the other activities of God through Jesus, we can begin to gain a better understanding of how God works. It is not so much a formula of His activity that says, if we do this, then that will happen. That can be dangerous and usually is not a wise thing to do. However, as we look at the overall activity of God, we can begin to see certain patterns in the way God works. Now please understand, God is not limited by a pattern of activity and because he is God, He can do things any way He might choose to do things. However, God is an orderly God and we can see how He has chosen to do things through history.

In today's lesson on Jesus feeding the 5,000, if we look closely, we can see one of these patterns emerging. Once we see the pattern, we then can apply that pattern to here and now in our lives.

**MAIN GOAL:** There is always something beyond anything we can imagine Jesus is planning and He always invites His faithful followers to join Him to bring it to completion.

#### TODAY'S TRUTHS:

**TRUTH #1:** Jesus sees us and is moved by compassion.

**TRUTH #2:** Jesus always has a plan and that plan seems impossible from a human viewpoint.

**TRUTH #3:** Jesus always invites his faithful followers to join him and their first response is often, "I can't" and His response to that is simply "give me all you have."

**TRUTH #4:** Jesus always does something beyond what we could ask for or even imagine.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Jesus once again is going to perform an amazing miracle where He invites His disciples to join Him in the miracle itself. Jesus knew where the story was going. His plan for the ages was redemption coming to the world. Jesus knew that he would go to the cross, be resurrected and then He would ascend to the Father and the Holy Spirit would be poured out for all who would believe. The disciples were going to take the lead in the gospel message being spread to the uttermost parts of the world. Jesus, knowing this was His plan and because He always leads from the future, was getting the disciples ready for the task before them.

As we begin to look at the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000, our first step is to understand Jesus is always planning something that is beyond our imagination and is more than we can even ask.

### Read Ephesians 3:20

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...*

How does this verse relate to our main goal for today?

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This verse says that Jesus can do more than we could ask for or that we could even think or imagine.

When we think about things in our lives that we might be asking for or imagining, this is not meant to be a wish list, but things that the Lord may have put on our hearts related to the kingdom and our role in that.

What are some things that are on your heart now regarding your family, your church, your life that you are imagining and that you are asking the Father about?

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What does the truth of this Ephesians passage have to say regarding what you gave as your response to the above question?

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There are amazing things God desires to do, just as He did with His disciples in feeding the 5,000. How can we join Him in what He is planning?

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## II. GET FOCUSED

### Read Mark 6:30-34

*The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. <sup>31</sup>And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. <sup>32</sup>And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. <sup>34</sup>When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.*

### TRUTH #1: JESUS SEES US AND IS MOVED BY COMPASSION.

V. 30 tells us the apostles had just returned to Jesus to tell Him about all they had experienced. Mark 6:7-13 tells us Jesus had sent the apostles out two by two to minister. It adds a very important part that He gave them authority. The gospel of Mark stresses the authority of Jesus over all. He gives that authority to his apostles. They in turn were able to cast out demons and heal the sick in Jesus' name. They had His authority. They returned telling Jesus all that had happened.

Verse 31 tells us Jesus' first response was how the apostles needed to get away for some rest. They had not had time to eat or to rest. So, they got in a boat and were going to travel across the Sea of Galilee. How relaxing the boat ride alone would have been!

Verse 33 tells us that there were people watching and saw where they were headed. Because the Sea of Galilee was not large, the people could easily see where the boat was headed, and they made their way there to see and hear Jesus. They even arrived at the dock before Jesus and the disciples.

Verse 34 tells us that Jesus saw these people and had compassion on them. The word "saw" is the idea of to see with the eyes, but also to know or become aware. It takes it a step further and carries the idea of, to consider, perceive and understand. This means that Jesus was able to see beyond their physical appearance to the very core of who they were. He understands what was going on in their lives and what their greatest needs were, and they never even had to speak a word.

What He saw moved Him to compassion. Compassion is the idea of to have the bowels yearn. The intestines were seen as the seat of emotions and feelings. Compassion is also to have tender mercy. Jesus had a heart for these people. Jesus saw the person, the heart, the need and from all He saw, His perception was, "they were like sheep without a shepherd."

Verse 34 then says upon Him seeing them and perceiving their needs, He immediately began to "teach them many things." We don't know exactly what Jesus taught them. We can confidently assume it was based on what He had seen. He saw the greatest need of their life was for a Shepherd. He was that Shepherd they hungered for and needed desperately in their lives.

Right now, what is the greatest need in your life or the life of your family?

What does it mean to you that Jesus sees you?

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Do you ever struggle believing that Jesus really understands what you are going through? If so, how do these verses change your view?

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What difference does it make to you, in the middle of your struggle or need, that Jesus has compassion for you?

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## YOUR VIEWPOINT

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### Read Mark 6:35-36

*And when it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the hour is now late. <sup>36</sup>Send them away to go into the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."*

## TRUTH #2: JESUS ALWAYS HAS A PLAN AND THAT PLAN SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE FROM A HUMAN VIEWPOINT.

Jesus had been teaching the people for a long time and it was now late, and the disciples told Him to send the people away to the nearby villages and they could buy themselves food to eat.

There was a great need. We know from later verses that there were 5,000 men. This does not count the women and children. They were in a desolate place which means it was like a wilderness. From a human perspective, there was no way to feed them all. What to do? Rather than asking Jesus what to do, they told Him what they thought He should do; just send them away. The disciples saw no other option. It was impossible to feed all these people.

Once we see a need, why do we sometimes begin to tell Jesus what we think He needs to do?

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### Read John 6:6

*He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do.*

But Jesus already had a plan and this plan was beyond human comprehension.

## YOUR VIEWPOINT

**Read Mark 6:37-38**

*But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." And they said to him, "Shall we go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?"<sup>38</sup> And he said to them, "How many loaves do you have? Go and see." And when they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish."*

**TRUTH #3: JESUS ALWAYS INVITES HIS FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS TO JOIN HIM AND THEIR FIRST RESPONSE IS OFTEN, "I CAN'T" AND HIS RESPONSE TO THAT IS SIMPLY "GIVE ME ALL YOU HAVE."**

The disciples had told Jesus what they thought He should do, but he had a different plan. Remember Jesus was teaching not only the people, but also His disciples. They were the ones He would use in His Kingdom plan to reach the world and there were things they needed to learn before they could get to that point. He is always teaching His followers to prepare them for the next leg of their journey.

What do you sense He may be teaching you in this season of your life to get you ready for the plans He has?

When was the last time you were moved to compassion like Jesus was here?

The plan in Mark 6 was huge. It was to feed 5,000 people in a desolate place. Jesus' first response was to invite the disciples to join Him in His plan.

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?

Jesus knew it was humanly impossible, so why do you suppose He told the disciples to provide food for the people?

**Read 2 Corinthians 12:9**

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

One of the reasons Jesus places His followers in humanly impossible situations and circumstances is to get them to a point of realizing they, within themselves, do not have what it takes to fill the need. Once we realize our weakness or lack of power, that is the point we turn to Him and His Power comes to its full force. We discover just how powerful He is when we acknowledge our weakness to Him. We must get to the point where we realize unless He comes through, nothing is going to happen.

Do you believe Jesus has ever placed you in a situation that was humanly impossible to overcome? If so, what do you believe He was trying to teach you?

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Their response was that even if they had 200 denarii worth of bread, it would not be enough. One denarii was a day's wage. Two hundred day's wages would not be enough to buy enough bread for such a crowd. Jesus' response in verse 38 was, "then what do you have?" V. 38 tells us all they had was two fish and five loaves of bread, not much considering the need. Their ability and their resources were not enough to meet the need of the day.

Jesus' response to them was in laymen's terms – "Give me what you have." The act of giving what they had was acknowledging what little they had to offer, but it was all they had. They gave it all!

When it comes to joining Jesus in what He is doing, His Kingdom activity, and His invitation for you to join Him, have you ever felt what you had, your ability or what you had to offer was just not enough?

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**YOUR VIEWPOINT****Read Mark 6:39-44**

*Then he commanded them all to sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups, by hundreds and by fifties. <sup>41</sup>And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup>And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup>And those who ate the loaves were five thousand men...*

## TRUTH #4: JESUS ALWAYS DOES SOMETHING BEYOND WHAT WE COULD ASK FOR OR EVEN IMAGINE.

Jesus instructed them to set everyone on the ground in groups of 50 and 100. He then took what they had to offer, small that it was, insignificant that anyone might have thought it was, and He looked to heaven. What an amazing teaching moment this was for the crowd and for the disciples. The mighty act always comes from above. When you are in need, look upward. When your resources are small and the task is big, look upward.

Where might people look other than to God when they find themselves in impossible situations with limited resources?

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Jesus then breaks the loaves and gives the bread and the fish to the disciples and they give it to the people. In a way only God through Jesus can do, there is enough for the 5,000 plus people to be "satisfied." The word satisfied means to be filled, to gorge and to supply to abundance. But not just that, there were 12 baskets full of leftovers.

How many disciples were there?

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Why do you suppose there were the same number of baskets as disciples?

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As the disciples collected the leftovers, they must have been reminded as they were carrying their basket, just how powerful Jesus is. What a mighty Shepherd, Savior, Son of God He is. He can do anything. The amazing part for these disciples was how they were able to participate with Jesus when they gave Him what they had!

### YOUR VIEWPOINT

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## III. CONCLUSION

In the first section of our lesson, "For The Leader", we talked about a pattern of the activity of God. Our main goal was that there is always something beyond anything we can imagine Jesus is planning and He always invites His faithful followers to join Him to bring it to completion. This truth was demonstrated through our truths:

**TRUTH #1:** Jesus sees us and is moved by compassion.

**TRUTH #2:** Jesus always has a plan and that plan seems impossible from a human viewpoint.

**TRUTH #3:** Jesus always invites his faithful followers to join him and their first response is often, "I can't" and His response to that is simply "give me all you have."

**TRUTH #4:** Jesus always does something beyond what we could ask for or even imagine.

These truths are a pattern we see throughout scripture. We see this when Jesus challenged the disciples in Acts 1:8 to reach the world with the Good news. His plan was for all to know. How would this get done through the disciples? They had to give what they had to Him and when they did, Pentecost happened and people were saved and the Gospel began to spread. We see this pattern when God was going to overcome the Midianites with Gideon and a few men. If this is a pattern, then it means God still works this way. It means there are still things God desires to do, things that are beyond our imagination. Things we could not even think to ask. He is inviting His faithful followers to join Him. This is where we come in. We are His faithful followers.

What must we do to join Him in what He is planning to do?

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What will your two fish and five loaves be?

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## IV. EXTRA TIME

Discuss other times in the Scripture where you can see this pattern of people being placed in impossible situations, invited to join God and God moving in a miraculous way.

(ie. Pentecost, Gideon, etc.)

## V. PRAYER

Pray for your willingness to give what you have in order to join God in what He is planning to do.

Pray that you will not succumb to the thoughts that what you have is just not enough and miss what God has in store.

## VI. MEMORY VERSE

Mark 6:56

# Rooted In His Word: Miracles

## Mark 10:46-52 – Blind Bartimaeus Healed

June 27, 2021

### FOR THE LEADER

This is our final week in the book of Mark looking at the miracles of Jesus. It is important that we remind ourselves the purpose of these miracles and why they are being recorded in the Bible. We know that Jesus did much more than is recorded in the Bible, so those stories and miracles recorded were ordained by the Holy Spirit to send a special message from God.

(John 21:25; II Timothy 3:16-17)

We have seen how the Gospel of Mark not only teaches us about the authority Jesus has over all things, it also helps us better understand who He is and what kind of Savior He is. We have learned how Jesus has authority over illness, death and evil spirits. We have learned or rather been reminded of how He is a Savior who sees us and sees into the depth of our hearts. We have seen that He is a miracle worker; He is all-powerful; He is true to His word. We have also seen that He is a Savior that honors faith.

Each of the miracles we have studied this month has helped us learn more of who Jesus is.

To begin your class today, consider asking your class several questions:

What miracles have we studied about this month?

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What did these miracles teach us about Jesus?

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How has your understanding of who Jesus is changed or been affirmed through the study of these miracles?

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Today's lesson will be no exception. The story of Blind Bartimaeus will give us even more insight into who Jesus is.

**MAIN GOAL:** When you truly understand mercy and request that of Jesus and He responds, you let nothing stand in your way.

**TODAY'S TRUTHS:**

**TRUTH #1:** Mercy is demonstrated when we understand our need and who Jesus is.

**TRUTH #2:** When Jesus responds to our plea for mercy, nothing must stand in our way.

**TRUTH #3:** Jesus' gift of mercy is ushered in by our faith.

**TRUTH #4:** When we receive his mercy, our response must be to follow Him.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

How do you define mercy?

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A key point to understanding today's lesson is the idea and concept of mercy. The word itself means compassion, divine grace and the idea of showing mercy to someone in need. Another word for mercy is grace. It is the idea of unmerited favor. It is divine grace, something that comes from God. Even when we offer mercy to one another, we are merely the conduit as it ushers from the very heart of God. There is nothing we can do to deserve it and nothing we can do to prevent it. It is initiated by God, comes from God and is an attribute that is at the very heart of God. If we want to understand what the mercy of God looks like, we need only look at the life of Jesus. He is the express image of the Father.

A second key point to understanding today's lesson is the placement of this story in the book of Mark. It is just before the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. That Triumphal Entry is crucial. That leads to the final week of Jesus' earthly ministry which leads to the cross and the tomb. Being the final thing prior to Jesus' entry is significant. The last things we do and say sometimes are the most important. They are the things we hold to most tightly. The last instructions parents give to the babysitter before they leave for the evening, the last thing a loved one tells us before they die, the last thing the boss says before he leaves for vacation, all these last words are crucial.

Why do you think Jesus chose to heal Bartimaeus just before His Triumphant Entry?

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The third key point to keep in mind in looking at this lesson is really the answer to the above question. One of the reasons this story is so significant in its placement is the fact that Bartimaeus was blind. Blindness in the scripture points not only to the physical condition of not being able to see, but it also points to the spiritual blindness of sin and of not understanding who Jesus is and not realizing your need for Him as your savior. Jesus going to the cross and rising again would open the eyes of the disciples and all those who had chosen to follow Him. The purpose of Jesus' coming was to open eyes and hearts to having a relationship with God through Him. Spiritual blindness had invaded the religious community who fought against Jesus. Soon many would see, and they no longer would be blind just like Bartimaeus would see.

## II. GET FOCUSED

### Read Mark 10:46-48

*And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>48</sup>And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out even more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

## TRUTH #1: MERCY IS DEMONSTRATED WHEN WE UNDERSTAND OUR NEED AND WHO JESUS IS.

How deep is our need for mercy?

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### *The Man's Condition*

The man's name was Bartimaeus. This is a quite unique name that speaks volumes. Names in our society do not always have special meanings. Sometime children are named for a family member. Sometimes they are named a specific name because it is a trend or starts with a certain letter. There are many reasons why children are named certain names. In the Old and New Testament names meant something. Often they spoke of character. They even presented a message. Bartimaeus' name had great significance. It says He was son of Timaeus. This means son of honor or highly prized. Wow, what a great meaning to your name. You might go around flaunting that name a bit like Joseph did his coat of many colors. But this was not the only meaning to the name. It also meant son of the unclean, not a popular name. All Bartimaeus' life he understood that.

When it comes to mercy, to really grasp the significance of it, we first must grasp the depth of our need for mercy.

### Read I Timothy 1:15

*The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.*

How did Paul describe himself in this passage?

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Grace and mercy are sweeter when we understand that we stand in need of that mercy. Bartimaeus understood he was the son of the unclean. He needed someone to cleanse Him.

How does the meaning of Bartimaeus' name link with spiritual blindness and maybe not seeing the depth of our need for mercy?

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**Read John 9:1-2**

*As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

According to this verse, what did many in Jesus' day think caused physical illness such as blindness?

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Whether Bartimaeus himself thought his blindness was caused by something he had done, or his parents had done, others most likely looked at him that way. He had lived his entire life thinking or being told his sin had caused his blindness.

He was a beggar sitting by the roadside. His only means of support was depending on the alms of others. It is wonderful that folks are generous in giving, but it does something to your heart when you are unable to take care of your needs through your own means of support.

What was the first request Bartimaeus made of Jesus?

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He asks Jesus to have mercy on Him. Based on our understanding of the word "mercy" we know that in this request of Jesus, he realized he did not deserve anything. He is asking Jesus to provide something he did not deserve. He fully understood his need for mercy. Remember again – our full understanding of mercy is connected to our full understanding of our desperate need. The request for mercy is a humbling request. It is the acknowledgement that we cannot provide for ourselves what we need. We must ask someone else for help.

Given the request of Bartimaeus, do you think he understood his need for mercy and it was not just about his eyes?

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What was the greatest need in Bartimaeus' life?

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Bartimaeus knew who Jesus was. In v. 47 we see that Bartimaeus called Jesus by a certain name, "Jesus, Son of David". Son of David was the messianic name for Jesus. In other words, he is acknowledging that Jesus is the promised Messiah. He is the one who brings us into relationship with the Father. Bartimaeus knew who He was talking to and he knew Jesus was his only hope. There was no hope other than Jesus.

Why is it important for us to get to the point in our lives where we acknowledge Jesus is our only hope?

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## YOUR VIEWPOINT

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### Read Mark 10:48-50

*And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>49</sup>And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." <sup>50</sup>And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.*

## TRUTH #2: WHEN JESUS RESPONDS TO OUR PLEA FOR MERCY, NOTHING MUST STAND IN OUR WAY.

There were great crowds of people when Jesus came to town. We can assume there was a buzz about Jesus. He had been publicly ministering for three years. People had heard about Jesus and all the miracles He had performed. Bartimaeus knew enough about Jesus to know He was the promised one. When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was near, passing by, he began to cry out to Jesus, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me." The thought of Jesus coming and the potential of Jesus showing him mercy encouraged him to cry out. This is not a calm, soft voice. It is crying out as if your life depended on it. To cry out is to come from the depth of our soul based on a need we have.

When was the last time you "cried out" to Jesus?

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Verse 48 tells us that people rebuked Him. To rebuke is to charge someone or to attempt to censure someone and to forbid them. People were telling him to leave Jesus alone. Perhaps they thought Jesus was too busy. Perhaps they felt as if the man deserved his condition based on the belief that a person's sin caused their ailment. For whatever reason, they tried to stop Bartimaeus from bothering Jesus. However, Bartimaeus knew his personal need and that Jesus was the only one who could provide, he let nothing stand in his way. He cried out to Jesus!

What prevents us from crying out to Jesus at our point of need?

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V. 49 tells us Jesus stopped. Isn't it a comfort to know that Jesus stops for us and focuses on us when we call to Him? The word "stop" means to be still, but it also means to appoint. In other words, Jesus' stopping was appointed, it was meant to be, it was planned by Jesus. Jesus was going to demonstrate once again the Savior He is. He deals with us as if we are the only person in need in that moment.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus "stops" for you?

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Jesus tells the crowd to have Bartimaeus come closer. What is Bartimaeus' response in v. 50?

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He throws off his outer coat and springs up and makes his way to Jesus. To spring up is the idea of severely and with intensity. Literally it's like a spring is attached and he leaps up.

Bartimaeus did not let his blindness stop him. He did not let other people's reactions and rebukes stop him.

What caused Bartimaeus to spring up and refuse to let others stop him?

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He knew who Jesus was. He knew what His need was and most importantly, he knew Jesus was his only hope. When you combine those things, you let nothing stand in your way to come to Jesus.

### YOUR VIEWPOINT

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#### Read Mark 10:51-52

*And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." <sup>52</sup>And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.*

**TRUTH #3: JESUS' GIFT OF MERCY IS USHERED IN BY OUR FAITH.**

Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted. Bartimaeus had asked for mercy and nothing else and now Jesus, seeing into the heart of Bartimaeus, turned it back to him and said, "What do you want me to do for you." Bartimaeus' response was that he wanted to recover his sight. Jesus' response was to heal his blindness and then said, this miracle of healing was ushered in by the faith of Bartimaeus.

**Read Matthew 13:58**

*And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.*

According to this verse, what prevented Jesus from doing many mighty works?

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It is not that Jesus is unable to do mighty works based on our faith, but rather it is that He chooses to honor faith. He responds to our faith in Him. When we have faith in Him, He is pleased (Hebrews 11:6). He responds to our faith. Throughout the scripture, time and time again, Jesus speaks of the faith of people and how He acted in response to their faith.

Explain a time when your lack of faith might have prevented Jesus from doing a mighty work?

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- Jesus honored the faith of the four men who lowered the man down through the roof.
- Jesus honored the faith of Jairus trusting in the promise of Jesus to heal his daughter.
- Jesus honored the faith of the woman with the issue of blood who knew if she could just touch the hem of His garment, she would be healed.
- Jesus honors and blesses our faith!

**YOUR VIEWPOINT**

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**Read Mark 10:52**

*And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.*

**TRUTH #4: WHEN WE RECEIVE HIS MERCY, OUR RESPONSE MUST BE TO FOLLOW HIM.**

What was Bartimaeus' immediate response to Jesus' outpouring of mercy?

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He “followed him on the way.” To follow is to accompany but more importantly it means to be a disciple. Not only were Bartimaeus’ eyes healed, his heart also was healed from much deeper blindness. The miracle always points beyond itself to Jesus and to what He can do in the life of someone who responds to Him. Bartimaeus was changed from the inside out.

How have you seen your life change as a result of the outpouring of the mercy of Jesus?

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### YOUR VIEWPOINT

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## III. CONCLUSION

Today we have focused on our final miracle in the book of Mark. We have seen through today’s scripture our main goal of – When you truly understand mercy and request that of Jesus and He responds, you let nothing stand in your way. We have come to understand this goal through our truths:

**TRUTH #1:** Mercy is demonstrated when we understand our need and who Jesus is.

**TRUTH #2:** When Jesus responds to our plea for mercy, nothing must stand in our way.

**TRUTH #3:** Jesus’ gift of mercy is ushered in by our faith.

**TRUTH #4:** When we receive his mercy, our response must be to follow Him.

On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the least and 10 being the most, how would you rate your need for mercy?

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Is there anything in your life today that is standing in your way of fully receiving the mercy God has for you?

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## IV. EXTRA TIME

If time permits, have your class recount the character traits of Jesus our lessons from this month have reminded us of.

Have these traits of Jesus changed your understanding of the way He personally relates to each of us and if so, how?

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## **V. PRAYER**

Thank Jesus for the mercy He has poured out on you.

Ask Jesus to reveal to you anything that stands in the way of you experiencing His full mercy.

## **VI. MEMORY VERSE**

Mark 9:1

