

Mark 4:35-6:6

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In this section of Mark's Gospel we read of Jesus' authority over wind and sea, demonic possession, illness, and even death, although he lacked honour in his hometown.

1. *Jesus has power over nature* (4: 35-41)

Note: The marks of eyewitness testimony (the note of time [4:35], "just as he was" [4: 36], "other boats" [4: 36], "cushion" [4: 38], the disciples' rebuke [4: 38], Jesus' rebuke [4: 40])

Jesus' exhaustion and his deep sleep in the serenity of faith (4: 38)

Jesus' direct address to the wind and waves, as if they were animate spirits (4: 39) (cf. Psalm 107: 29-30)

In the midst of persecution and difficulty, the Church and the individual Christian need have no fear, given the presence of Jesus

A miracle is a self-revelatory act of God or Christ of an unusual or unexpected kind that is recognised by, and promotes, faith or religious insight

2. *Jesus has power over evil* (5: 1-20)

Note: Mark focuses on the more vocal of the two demonized men (Matthew 8: 28) The demons feared that Jesus would send them into the Abyss, the bottomless pit, the place of torment (Luke 8: 31; Rev. 9: 1-2, 11; 20: 1-3)

The destruction of the 2000 pigs (5: 13): Jesus merely consented to the demons' request for a new home; the destruction gave the man visible proof of his freedom from demonic influence and shows that the spiritual deliverance of one human is more important than the preservation of many animals (see Matt. 12: 12)

The man's complete healing: he was quietly sitting, clothed, and sane (5: 15)

Jesus instructs the man to return to his home in the Decapolis (The Ten Cities) (5: 19-20) – to become the firstfruits of the Greek / Gentile harvest

3. *Jesus has power over disease* (5: 25-34)

Note: The woman's ongoing discouragement: being ceremoniously unclean (Leviticus 15: 25-27), she was barred from worship in the temple and was a social outcast, without friends; she had lost hope as well as money (5: 25-26)

Her persistent faith (5: 27, 34): "she kept on thinking ..." (5: 28)

Her superstitious faith (5: 28)

4. *Jesus has power over death* (5: 21-24, 35-43)

Note: Jairus's wavering faith (5: 23, 34-36): "Stop being afraid! Just keep on believing" (5: 36)

Jesus' inmost circle: the three "nicknamed" (see 3: 16-17) disciples, Peter, James and John, who were also with him at the Transfiguration (9: 1-8) and in Gethsemane (14: 33)

Jesus' enigmatic statement ("The child is not dead but asleep," 5: 39) and tender actions (5: 40-43)

THE THREE "RAISINGS" BY JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

(i) The widow of Nain's son (Lk. 7: 11-17)

(ii) The daughter of Jairus (Matt. 9: 18-19, 23-26; Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43; Luke 8: 40-42, 49-56)

(iii) Lazarus (John 11: 1-44)

If you are new or visiting; *a special warm welcome to you.* We trust you enjoy your time with us.

Today we will be having communion. If it is your practice to participate in this we welcome you to join with us in celebrating the Lord's Supper. If this is not your custom or if you are unsure of what to do please just pass the emblems (bread and wine) to the person next to you.

THE PLAN

Singing

Worship

Quick Break

Singing

Children to Sunday school

Murray Harris

This Week

Today

- Murray Harris - Mark 4:35-6:6
- Japanese Christian Fellowship - 5pm

Friday

- Women's Prayer Meeting - 98 Glenross St at 12 noon
- Youth Group - Meet at the corner chapel at 6:30pm

Next Week

Sunday

- David McDowell
- AGM to follow service - Wray St youth hall

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for students who are sitting exams at the moment
- Please pray for our missionaries

All three of these “reanimations”:
 pointed to the messiahship of Jesus
 demonstrated the power of Jesus
 illustrated the compassion of Jesus
 pictured the conquest of Jesus over death
 prefigured the resurrection of Jesus and of all people

5. *Jesus was “without honour” in his own hometown* (6: 1-6)

Note: Nazareth is given a second chance (see Luke 4: 28-29) to get to know Jesus (6: 1-2a), but familiarity produced rejection and unbelief (6: 2b-3)

Within the early church the New Testament references to the “brothers” and “sisters” of Jesus (such as 6: 3) were understood in three different ways:

- (i) as Jesus’ younger (half-) brothers and (half-) sisters, born to Joseph and Mary in later years;
- (ii) as Jesus’ step-brothers and step-sisters, the sons and daughters of Joseph by a previous marriage, Joseph being a widower when he married Mary; or
- (iii) as Jesus’ cousins

In 2002 a first-century limestone (empty) burial box for bones (known as an “ossuary”) came to light in Jerusalem, bearing an inscription in Aramaic, “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus.” The ossuary has been dated A.D. 63.

It was apparently through the Resurrection that Jesus’ brothers came to believe in him (see John 7: 5; I Cor. 9: 5; 15: 7; Acts 1: 14)

Murray J. Harris

Small Groups

Tuesday

- Ladies Home Group - see Laura Hannah 473-7954
- Mornington Home Group - see Jonathan Gauntlett 453-4195
- Central Home Group - see Steve Clark 479-2070
- Brockville Home Group - see Geoffrey Stewart 476-7888

Wednesday

- Pine Hill Home Group - see John Hannah 473-7954

Friday

- Halfway Bush Home Group - see Gideon Chang 476-7101
- Ladies Bible Study Group - see Bethney Stewart 476-7888

Notes

NOTICES

- 1) If you would like to receive **copies of the information** that is sent to the church and often finds its way to the foyer please email Zibi John to advise him you would like to receive this. zbjohn@gmail.com.
- 2) On duty for Crèche this week: **Catherine Pettigrew** and **Rosie Pettigrew**
- 3) If anyone wishes to provide **supper for our Youth Group** on Friday nights, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church. Also, if anyone wishes to help provide food occasionally for **Japanese church**, please see **Laura Hannah**.
- 4) Could you please register your interest in a **Christmas Eve service**. If there is sufficient interest we would like to put together a Christmas Eve service in either the corner chapel or the Youth Hall in Brockville. Please register your interest with one of the elders. We need people to pray for this outreach endeavour, attend the service, contribute to the planning and running of the program.
- 5) **Rhys Gwynne** has a new mobile phone number: he can now be contacted on (021) 146-0237.
- 6) The chapel **Annual General Meeting** has been set for **Sunday 5 November** at the Wray Street Youth Hall. There is to be a finger food lunch before the meeting. Please proceed to the Youth Hall after the morning worship service.

Any notices for the church newsletter should be sent to Nathan Pettigrew at shigakiwis@value.net.nz or call 473-9326
before Thursday night!